STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

2008 MARINE FISHERIES INFORMATION CIRCULAR

Commercial and Recreational Fishing in Marine Waters
Lobstering and Crabbing in Marine Waters
Commercial Fishing in the Inland District

INTRODUCTION

This circular is provided to inform commercial and recreational fishermen about Connecticut statutes and regulations that govern the taking of lobsters, marine and anadromous finfish, squid and crabs. For information pertaining to molluscan shellfisheries (oysters, clams, bay scallops and conch), contact local town clerks or the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture (203-874-0696).

The circular is intended to be a layman's summary. No attempt is made to employ the exact wording of statutes or regulations or to provide a complete listing of them. Interpretation or explanation of the material contained herein may be obtained from a Connecticut Environmental Conservation Police Officer, or from the following sources:

DEP Marine Fisheries Division (860-434-6043)

DEP Marine Environmental Conservation Police (860-434-9840)

For legal purposes, Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and the Connecticut General Statutes must be consulted.

License applications and licenses are obtained by writing the DEP Licensing and Revenue Unit, 79 Elm Street, First Floor, Hartford, Connecticut 06106, or by calling 860-424-3105. License applications, as well as this document, may also be obtained from the DEP web site: http://www.ct.gov/dep/fishing.

Department of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Natural Resources
Marine Fisheries Division
333 Ferry Road
P.O. Box 719
Old Lyme, CT 06371

Effective April 05, 2008 Rev. 4/4/2008 10:35 AM

Major Regulation Changes

2007 Regulations	Page
Research Set-Aside (RSA) exemptions	2
Lobster Management Area (LMA) 2 trap allocation changes	12
V-Notched lobster possession changes	
Prohibition of "culling" or "high-grading"	
Registration of Marine Fishing Tournaments	
Summer flounder (fluke) recreational fishery season and creel limit changes	
Weakfish (sea trout) recreational fishery creel limit change	15
Commercial horseshoe crab season changes	
Commercial horseshoe crab possession restrictions changes	
Commercial summer flounder (fluke) possession limit changes	
Declarations by the Commissioner of Environmental Protecti	ion
2008 Declarations	Page
Summer flounder (fluke) recreational minimum length and season changes	15
Scup (porgy) recreational creel limit and season changes	
Tautog (blackfish) recreational creel limit and season changes	15
Prohibition on the taking of alewives and blueback herring	
Tautog (blackfish) commercial possession limit and season changes	26

Table of Contents

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES	I
DECLARATIONS BY THE COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	I
TABLE OF CONTENTS	II
LIST OF TABLES	IV
LIST OF FIGURES	IV
GENERAL PROVISIONS	1
MARINE FISHING LICENSES ISSUED	3
COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE	3
Commercial Lobster Pot License	
COMMERCIAL FINFISH LICENSE (EXCEEDING SPORT FISHERY CREEL LIMITS WHEN USING HOOKS IS PROHIB	
Commercial Finfish License (exceeding sport fishery creel limits when using hooks is allow	
COMMERCIAL LANDING LICENSE	
COMMERCIAL SHAD FISHING LICENSE	
COMMERCIAL BAIT LICENSE	
COMMERCIAL BLUE CRAB LICENSE	
MARINE POUND NET REGISTRATION	
COMMERCIAL HORSESHOE CRAB LICENSE	8
COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL PERMIT	
PARTY AND CHARTER FISHING VESSEL REGISTRATION	9
SEAFOOD DEALERS LICENSE	9
BAIT DEALERS LICENSE	10
PERSONAL USE LOBSTER LICENSE	10
PERSONAL USE GILLNET FOR MENHADEN LICENSE	10
ENVIRONMENTAL TOURISM CRUISE VESSEL PERMIT	10
WHEN A LICENSE IS NOT REQUIRED	11
GENERAL PROVISIONS – LOBSTERS	12
LICENSE REQUIREMENTS	10
Trap Tags	
GEAR RESTRICTIONS	
Possession Restrictions	
GENERAL PROVISIONS – FINFISH	
Degree attional Digitery	1.4
RECREATIONAL FISHERYCOMMERCIAL FISHERY – MINIMUM LENGTHS	
MESH OF NETS IN CONNECTICUT WATERS	
Trawl Nets	
SeinesSeines	
Gill Nets.	
Scoop Nets for Taking American Shad	
Minnow Seines and Traps for Taking Only the Bait Species Listed in Appendix IV: Bait Species	
FISH POTS	
CONSTRUCTION OF MINNOW TRAPS	
PROHIBITED FINFISH GEAR TYPES	
AREAS OF THE INLAND DISTRICT OPEN TO COMMERCIAL FISHING	
Connecticut River System	
Housatonic River System	
Quinnipiac River SystemQuinnipiac River System	
Thames River System	
~ <i>y</i> ~	

Quinebaug River System	20
French River System	
Shetucket River System	
SPECIES-SPECIFIC AREA RESTRICTIONS	
Areas Closed to Commercial Fishing	
SEASONS CLOSED TO COMMERCIAL FISHING	
SPECIES RESTRICTIONS	
Alewives and Blueback Herring (Alosa pseudoharengus, Alosa aestivalis)	
American Eel (Anguilla rostrata)	
American Shad (Alosa sapidissima)	
Atlantic Herring (Clupea harengus)	
Black Sea Bass (Centropristis striata)	
Blue Crabs (Callinectes sapidus)	
Bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix)	
Catfish Species	
Horseshoe Crabs (Limulus polyphemus)	
Summer Flounder (fluke) (Paralichthys dentatus)	
Winter Flounder (Pseudopleuronectes americanus)	
Monkfish (Lophius americanus)	24
Scup (porgy) (Stenotomus chrysops)	
Spiny Dogfish (Squalus acanthius)	
Striped Bass (Morone saxatilis)	25
Atlantic Sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus)	
Shortnose Sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum)	
Tautog (blackfish) (Tautoga onitis)	
Rainbow smelt (Osmerus mordax)	26
APPENDICES	27
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE	27
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE	27 27
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE	27 27 28
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE	27 27 28 29
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT	27 28 29
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS	27 28 29 30
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE	
APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE List of Tables Table 1. Activities for Which a License is and is Not Required	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE List of Tables Table 1. Activities for Which a License is and is Not Required Table 2. Recreational Fishery Minimum Lengths, Creel Limits and Open Seasons	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE List of Tables Table 1. Activities for Which a License is and is Not Required Table 2. Recreational Fishery Minimum Lengths, Creel Limits and Open Seasons Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE List of Tables Table 1. Activities for Which a License is and is Not Required Table 2. Recreational Fishery Minimum Lengths, Creel Limits and Open Seasons Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths Table 4. Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE List of Tables Table 1. Activities for Which a License is and is Not Required Table 2. Recreational Fishery Minimum Lengths, Creel Limits and Open Seasons Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths Table 4. Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing Table 5. Demarcations Between the Marine and Inland Districts	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE List of Tables Table 1. Activities for Which a License is and is Not Required Table 2. Recreational Fishery Minimum Lengths, Creel Limits and Open Seasons Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths Table 4. Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing Table 5. Demarcations Between the Marine and Inland Districts	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE List of Tables Table 1. Activities for Which a License is and is Not Required Table 2. Recreational Fishery Minimum Lengths, Creel Limits and Open Seasons Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths Table 4. Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing	
APPENDIX II: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE List of Tables Table 1. Activities for Which a License is and is Not Required Table 2. Recreational Fishery Minimum Lengths, Creel Limits and Open Seasons Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths Table 4. Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing Table 5. Demarcations Between the Marine and Inland Districts Table 6. Points Defining the Connecticut State Waters Boundary Line	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX II: OFFSHORE TRAWL LINE APPENDIX III: DEMARCATIONS BETWEEN THE MARINE AND INLAND DISTRICTS APPENDIX IV: BAIT SPECIES APPENDIX V: SPECIES THAT MAY BE TAKEN COMMERCIALLY IN THE INLAND DISTRICT APPENDIX VI: ESCAPE VENTS AND ESCAPE PANELS IN LOBSTER POTS APPENDIX VII: AREAS IN WHICH TRAWLING IS PROHIBITED APPENDIX VIII: CONNECTICUT STATE WATERS BOUNDARY LINE List of Tables Table 1. Activities for Which a License is and is Not Required Table 2. Recreational Fishery Minimum Lengths, Creel Limits and Open Seasons Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths Table 4. Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing Table 5. Demarcations Between the Marine and Inland Districts Table 6. Points Defining the Connecticut State Waters Boundary Line List of Figures	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE	
APPENDIX I: INSHORE TRAWL LINE	

General Provisions

- 1. License Moratorium: By Act of the Connecticut General Assembly, the issuing of Commercial Fishing Licenses (lobstering, trawling) and Commercial Finfish Licenses (gillnets, commercial angling, fish pots, eel pots, trap nets, beach seines, scoop nets for commercial purposes) is prohibited unless the applicant held such a license or registration from June 1, 1995, to December 31, 2003. Specific exceptions apply in the case of permanent transfers of a Commercial Fishing License or Commercial Finfish License or temporary transfers in the case of the incapacity of the license holder due to verifiable and substantiated medical conditions. Contact DEP Marine Fisheries for further information.
- 2. **Carrying Licenses:** Personal use lobster and menhaden gillnet licenses and all commercial fishing licenses and fishing registrations must be carried during all times that the license or registration holder is engaged in the permitted activity. Divers and others taking lobsters without the use of a boat and Commercial Finfish License holders taking fish without the use of a boat must have their license available for inspection at their shore-based point of diving or fishing.
- 3. **Display Of CT FISH Plates:** Except as otherwise noted, a numbered license plate and color-coded annual decal will be issued with each license or registration and must be displayed from all vessels engaged in a licensed activity.
- 4. Required Reports: With the exception of the Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit and the Party/Charter Boat Registration, all license and registration holders are required to submit fishery reports. Reports must be completed as indicated on the forms received with the fishing license or registration. Any person failing to report will be prohibited from renewing his or her license or registration and will be subject to a \$75.00 fine, per offense, for each violation. Reporting requirements and penalties for failing to report apply to all persons engaged in a licensed activity, even if they have been operating without a license. Persons who have failed to report for two or more months will be referred to the DEP Environmental Conservation Police for investigation. This continues policies implemented in 2002.

Fishermen are required to submit a complete catch report detailing the catch, effort and landing activities associated with:

- any landings made in Connecticut regardless of where the fishing takes place; or
- any fishing in Connecticut waters regardless of where the landings take place.

If no such fishing activity took place during the reporting period, fishermen must still submit a report indicating *Did Not Fish*.

Fishermen who sell their catch out-of-state, on consignment, or directly to the public, must now report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEP. In the case of direct sales to the public or sales out of state, modifications have been made to the logbook to eliminate the need for a separate report. If you are selling on consignment, you must contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for further information on how to report.

Seafood dealers are required to report all purchase transactions from fishermen who landed catch in Connecticut, no matter what waters that catch was taken from. Dealers must submit a report indicating *None purchased* if no such purchases were made during the reporting period. Seafood dealers who also hold a federal permit are required by federal regulations to report electronically. Since that data is shared with the DEP, such dealers do not have to submit paper reports to the DEP. They are however, bound by DEP timeliness requirements and subject to the consequences of delinquent reporting.

- 5. **Report Confidentiality:** All mandatory fishermen reports, shellfish data and marine fishery sampling data collected by the Department or voluntarily submitted to the Department are protected by State Statute and treated confidentially. Total landings and effort figures are provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service to be included in a national compilation of statistics. This information can in no way be related to an individual fisherman. Aggregated total landings summaries by area, county, and species are available to the general public, but they cannot be related to an individual's reported catch.
- 6. Fishing In Federal Waters: For information on fishing for, landing, or possession of fish, lobsters, squid and sea scallops taken from federal waters, contact DEP Marine Fisheries (860-434-6043) or NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service) at 978-281-9300. For rules regulating fishing for Atlantic bluefin tuna, or other Atlantic tunas, contact NOAA Fisheries at 1-888-USA-TUNA (1-888-872-8862). For billfish or shark information, contact NOAA Fisheries at 1-800-894-5528.
- 7. **Boating Safety and Education Information:** There are a number of boating safety requirements in effect in Connecticut. For further information, contact DEP Boating Education at 860-434-8638 or DEP Marine Environmental Conservation Police at 860-434-9840.

8. **Research Set-Asides:** Vessels that are landing a species under the Research Set-Aside (RSA) Program of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMSF) are exempt from the commercial license endorsement letter requirements for that species and from possession limits and closed seasons for that species, other than those specified by NMFS for the RSA program. For further information, contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division at 860-434-6043.

Marine Fishing Licenses Issued

Commercial Fishing License

Resident	\$225.00
Non-resident	\$1,250,00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Take lobsters, crabs (including horseshoe crabs, excluding blue crabs), sea scallops, squid and finfish for personal use or for sale by the use of lobster pots or traps (but not fish pots), by trawling, or by sea scallop dredge, and to land these species regardless of the waters from which taken.

- 1. The holder of a resident Commercial Fishing License must be a resident of Connecticut.
- 2. The non-resident Commercial Fishing License is issued to residents of states other than Connecticut. Non-residents are prohibited from taking or landing lobsters under this license if their state does not allow Connecticut residents to obtain a license to take lobster in that state. For example, this license does not allow Rhode Island residents to take lobsters in Connecticut because Connecticut residents are prohibited from doing so in Rhode Island. However, Rhode Island residents can trawl for fish in Connecticut because Connecticut residents are allowed to do so in Rhode Island waters.
- Summer flounder, scup and black sea bass may only be possessed by license holders who have
 previously been issued endorsement letters based on meeting specific landings criteria. In the lobster
 pot fishery no endorsement letter is required for scup or black sea bass, but the possession limit for
 scup is 10 fish and for black sea bass, 10 fish.
- 4. Persons assisting the holder of a commercial fishing license are not required to be licensed. However, a holder of the commercial fishing license must be present during any fishing activities.
- 5. For information on lobster and fish sizes and area, season and gear restrictions, see General Provisions Lobsters (page 12) and General Provisions Finfish (page 15). See also Appendix VII: Areas in Which Trawling is Prohibited (page 31).
- 6. Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required: Yes.
- 7. Report Required: A trip catch log must be maintained and submitted either upon completion of the logbook or at the end of each month, whichever occurs first. A logbook must be available for inspection while you are landing or engaged in the licensed activity unless you have just submitted a completed book. All species, including fish caught in lobster pots, must be reported. Bluefish landed for commercial purposes may also have to be reported weekly for quota monitoring purposes (see page 23).
 - Fishermen who sell their catch out-of state, on consignment, or directly to the public, must report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEP. In the case of direct sale to the public, modifications have been made to the logbook to eliminate the need for a separate report. If you are selling on consignment, you must contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for further information on how to report.
- 8. **Moratorium:** This license is restricted by the Public Act 04-97 license moratorium. This act specifies that only those persons who held the license from June 1, 1995 to December 31, 2003 inclusive can renew this license.

Prohibited:

- 1. Taking striped bass commercially from state waters.
- Taking or possessing sturgeon, smelt, salmon, trout or char (salmonids) for commercial purposes from any waters.
- 3. Taking silver eels from state waters. See page 22 for details.

Commercial Lobster Pot License

Resident	\$150.00
Non-resident	\$225.00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Take lobsters, crabs (excluding blue crabs) and finfish for personal use or for sale by the use of lobster pots or traps, and to land these species regardless of the waters from which taken. Either the commercial fishing license or the commercial lobster pot license can be held; both are not required.

1. The holder of a resident commercial lobster pot license must be a resident of Connecticut.

- 2. The non-resident Commercial Lobster Pot License is issued to residents of states other than Connecticut. Non-residents are prohibited from obtaining this license if their state does not allow Connecticut residents to obtain a license to take lobster in that state. For example, this license does not allow Rhode Island residents to take lobsters in Connecticut because Connecticut residents are prohibited from doing so in Rhode Island.
- 3. Summer flounder may only be possessed by license holders who have previously been issued an endorsement letter based on meeting specific landings criteria. In the lobster pot fishery, no endorsement letter is required for scup or black sea bass, but the possession limit for scup is 10 fish and for black sea bass, 10 fish.
- 4. The use of any gear other than lobster pots is not allowed with this license.
- 5. Persons assisting the holder of a commercial lobster pot license are not required to be licensed. However, a holder of the commercial lobster pot license must be present during any fishing activities.
- 6. For information on lobster sizes, area and gear restrictions, see General Provisions Lobsters (page 12). For information on lobster and fish sizes and area, season and gear restrictions, see General Provisions Lobsters (page 12) and General Provisions Finfish (page 15).
- 7. Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required: Yes.
- 8. Report Required: A trip catch log must be maintained and submitted either upon completion of the logbook or at the end of each month, whichever occurs first. A logbook must be available for inspection while you are landing or engaged in the licensed activity unless you have just submitted a completed book. All species, including fish caught in lobster pots, must be reported. Bluefish landed for commercial purposes may also have to be reported weekly for quota monitoring purposes (see page 23).
 - Fishermen who sell their catch out-of state, on consignment, or directly to the public, must report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEP. In the case of direct sale to the public, modifications have been made to the logbook to eliminate the need for a separate report. If you are selling on consignment, you must contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for further information on how to report.
- 9. **Moratorium:** This license is restricted by the Public Act 04-97 license moratorium. This specifies that only those persons who held the license from June 1, 1995 to December 31, 2003 inclusive can renew this license.

Commercial Finfish License (exceeding sport fishery creel limits when using hooks is <u>prohibited</u>)

Resident	\$150.00
Non-Resident	\$200.00

Commercial Finfish License (exceeding sport fishery creel limits when using hooks is allowed)

Resident	\$300.00
Non-resident	\$500.00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Use gill nets, seines, traps, fish pots, cast nets, fykes, scoop nets, eel pots or similar devices to take finfish (except for American shad, bait species, or the species listed in *Prohibited,* below), for commercial purposes or for sale, in inland or marine waters in which the use of such gear is permitted; also, to use hook and line for commercial purposes in the marine district only (commercial angling is prohibited in the inland district) and to take horseshoe crabs by hand. See When A License Is Not Required on page 11 for exemptions for personal use fishing.

- See General Provisions Finfish (Page 15).
- 2. Summer flounder, scup and black sea bass may only be possessed by license holders who have previously been issued endorsement letters based on meeting specific landings criteria.
- 3. Non-residents are prohibited from taking or landing eels if their state does not allow Connecticut residents to obtain a license to take or land eels in that state.
- 4. Except for taking horseshoe crabs by hand, persons assisting the holder of a Commercial Finfish License are not required to be licensed. However, a holder of the Commercial Finfish License must be present during any fishing activities. All persons taking horseshoe crabs by hand must be licensed. Persons assisting in the transport of horseshoe crabs from the beach to vehicles need not have a license.

- 5. The landing or possession of Horseshoe Crabs in Connecticut is prohibited unless the license holder has in his possession a Horseshoe Crab Endorsement Letter. These letters are required in addition to a Commercial Finfish License or a Commercial Horseshoe Crab License and have been mailed to qualifying fishermen. Contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for information on qualification criteria.
- 6. This license is not required to take certain bait species. See Inland and Marine Commercial Bait License on page 6.
- 7. A list of species that may be taken commercially in the Inland District is provided in Appendix V: Species That May Be Taken Commercially in the Inland District, (page 30).
- 8. All fyke and trap nets must be buoyed. The buoy shall be marked with the license number of the owner in black figures on a light background. These figures must be not less than six inches long and each stroke must be at least one-half inch wide. The buoy must be maintained in a conspicuous place at or near the heart of the trap or fyke.
- Trap nets shall not be used to take any fish in the area lying between lines drawn south in Long Island Sound to the New York state line from Fenwick Dock, Old Saybrook and from Mill Creek (Mile Creek), Old Lyme.
- 10. All gill nets and seines must be tagged with a net tag provided with the license.
- 11. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required** Only if the activities authorized by this license are conducted with the aid of a boat (see page 8).
- 12. **Report Required:** A trip catch log must be maintained and submitted either upon completion of the logbook or at the end of each month, whichever occurs first. A logbook must be available for inspection while you are landing or engaged in the licensed activity unless you have just submitted a completed book. All species must be reported. Bluefish landed for commercial purposes may also have to be reported weekly for quota monitoring purposes (see page 23).
 - Fishermen who sell their catch out-of state, on consignment, or directly to the public, must report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEP. In the case of direct sale to the public, modifications have been made to the logbook to eliminate the need for a separate report. If you are selling on consignment, you must contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for further information on how to report.
- 13. **Moratorium:** This license is restricted by the Public Act 04-97 license moratorium. This specifies that only those persons who held the license from June 1, 1995 to December 31, 2003 inclusive can renew this license.

Prohibited:

- Commercial fishing with hook and line in the Inland District.
- Taking striped bass commercially from state waters
- Taking or possessing commercially sturgeon, smelt, salmon, trout or char (salmonids) from any waters.
- 4. Taking glass eels, elvers or silver eels from state waters. See page 22 for details.

Commercial Landing License

All Applicants...... \$400.00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Land finfish, lobsters, squid, crabs including horseshoe crabs, and sea scallops for sale, barter, exchange, consignment or transportation to any point of sale. Fishing in Connecticut waters is prohibited.

- This license is issued to fishermen who are not authorized to fish in Connecticut waters and to
 residents of states that do not issue commercial fishing licenses to Connecticut residents. Holders of
 a Connecticut commercial fishing license that covers the method used to take the catch are not
 required to obtain a landing license.
- 2. Summer flounder, scup and black sea bass may only be possessed by license holders who have previously been issued endorsement letters based on meeting specific landings criteria.
- 3. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required:** Only if the activities authorized by this license are conducted from a boat (see page 8).
- 4. **Report Required:** A trip catch log must be maintained and submitted either upon completion of the book or at the end of each month, whichever occurs first. A logbook must be available for inspection while you are landing or engaged in the licensed activity unless you have just submitted a completed book. Bluefish landed for commercial purposes may also have to be reported weekly for quota monitoring purposes (see page 23).

Fishermen who sell their catch out-of state, on consignment, or directly to the public, must report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEP. In the case of direct sale to the public, modifications have been made to the logbook to eliminate the need for a separate report. If you are selling on consignment, you must contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for further information on how to report.

Commercial Shad Fishing License

All Applicants...... \$100.00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Take American shad by the use of gill net, seine, dip or scoop net in the main body of the Connecticut River south of the Putnam Bridge in Glastonbury/Wethersfield, or in the marine district. Note: The use of a pound net to take American shad in the marine district requires a marine pound net registration.

- 1. The open season for taking American shad is from April 1 through June 15.
- 2. Persons assisting the holder of a Commercial Shad License are not required to be licensed. Licensed American shad fishermen who wish to take catfish as a by-catch species during the shad season must also possess a Commercial Finfish License.
- 3. In the Inland District, American shad may be taken for commercial purposes only in the main body of the Connecticut River from the I-95 bridge in Old Saybrook-Old Lyme to the William H. Putnam Memorial Bridge on Route 3 Glastonbury-Wethersfield.
- 4. In Marine Waters, American shad shall not be netted between lines drawn south in Long Island Sound to the New York state line from Menunketesuck Point, Westbrook and from Hatchett Point, Old Lyme except with seines, pounds, and gill nets.
- 5. All gill nets and seines must be tagged with a net tag provided with the license.
- 6. Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required: No.
- 7. **Report Required:** A daily record is required on the report form provided. This report must be submitted by July 15th of the fishing year.

Prohibited:

- 1. The use of gill nets constructed of single or multiple strand monofilament is prohibited from sunrise to sunset. The monofilament twine thickness shall be no greater than 0.28mm (#69).
- Taking finfish other than American shad. Taking catfish species during the shad season without a Commercial Finfish License (see Commercial Finfish License, page 4).
- 3. Commercial fishing for American shad from sundown Friday to sundown Sunday except by the use of a scoop net.
- 4. The use of nets with mesh size less than five inches stretched mesh.
- 5. Retention of American shad if taken by commercial gear in the following areas:
 - 1. Salmon River 4. Eight Mile River 2. Salmon River Cove 5. Scantic River
- 7. Upper Connecticut River* 8. Pawcatuck River
- 3. Hamburg Cove
 - 6. Farmington River
- * In the main body of the Connecticut river upstream of the William H. Putnam Bridge on Route 3 (Glastonbury-Wethersfield).
- 6. The use of pound nets or other fixed or staked nets to take American shad is prohibited except in the waters of Long Island Sound (see Marine Pound Net Registration, page 7).

Commercial Bait License

For Marine Waters	\$50.00
For Inland Waters	\$50.00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Take bait species commercially in marine waters or in the inland district, respectively, by the use of seines, traps, dip nets, scoop nets, weirs or similar devices. Use of gill nets or trawl nets is prohibited.

- 1. A listing of bait species is provided in Appendix IV: Bait Species (page 29).
- 2. A listing of demarcation lines between marine waters and the inland district is provided in Appendix III: Demarcations Between the Marine and Inland Districts (page 28).
- A listing of areas where inland commercial fishing is permitted is provided in Areas of the Inland District Open to Commercial Fishing (page 19).
- 4. All seines must be tagged with a net tag provided with the license. All traps shall be buoyed and the buoys shall be marked in the same manner as pound nets (see page 7).

- 5. Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required: No.
- 6. Report Required: A trip catch log must be maintained and submitted either upon completion of the book or at the end of each month, whichever occurs first. A logbook must be available for inspection while you are landing or engaged in the licensed activity unless you have just submitted a completed book.

Commercial Blue Crab License

All Applicants...... \$75.00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Take blue crabs for commercial purposes by scoop or dip net, hand line or manually operated and personally attended devices described as follows:

- Manually closed caging devices similar to the Star Crab Trap.
- Circular, topless traps not exceeding 26 inches in diameter.
- Semi-circular or cylindrical traps not exceeding 12 inches in diameter with hinged entrances or ends controlled by drawstrings.
- 1. Blue crabs taken by any means other than those stated above must be returned immediately, and without avoidable injury, to the water from which taken.
- A commercial blue crab license is required for each individual involved (including assistants) in the taking of blue crabs for commercial purposes. A license plate will not be issued with the blue crab license.
- 3. No license is required for taking blue crabs for personal use but not for sale.
- 4. Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required: No.
- 5. **Report Required:** A trip catch log must be maintained and submitted either upon completion of the book or at the end of each month, whichever occurs first. A logbook must be available for inspection while you are landing or engaged in the licensed activity unless you have just submitted a completed book.

Fishermen who sell their catch out-of state, on consignment, or directly to the public, must report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEP. In the case of direct sale to the public, modifications have been made to the logbook to eliminate the need for a separate report. If you are selling on consignment, you must contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for further information on how to report.

Prohibited:

- 1. Taking blue crabs from December 1 through April 30.
- The taking, offering for sale or possession of egg bearing blue crabs or blue crabs from which the egg pouch or bunion has been removed.
- 3. The taking, offering for sale or possession of hard shell blue crabs less than 5 inches measured from tip to tip of the longest shell spikes, or any soft shell blue crab less than 3-1/2 inches measured from tip to tip of the spikes.
- 4. The taking of blue crabs by lobster pot, trawl, pound net, seine, or any device other than those listed above.
- 5. Possession of uncooked blue crabs without the body shell (carapace) attached. Possession of more than two claws per body.
- 6. Use of Chesapeake-style box / cage traps.

Marine Pound Net Registration

All Applicants...... \$225.00

Authorizes the Registrant to: Take finfish, but not striped bass, sturgeon, salmon, trout or charr, and not lobsters, blue crabs or horseshoe crabs. Registrant does not have to be present during fishing operations.

- 1. No other fishing license or endorsement is required to operate, set or tend a pound net unless fluke (page 24), scup (page 25), or black sea bass (page 22) are possessed. The applicant must include the location of the net on his application. All pound nets must be buoyed. The buoy must bear the registration number of the owner in black figures on a light background. The figures must be at least six inches long and each stroke must be at least 1/2 inch wide. The buoy must be maintained in a conspicuous place at or near the heart of the pound.
- 2. The applicant must apply for and receive a "Structures, Dredging and Fill" permit issued by the DEP office of Long Island Sound Programs.

- 3. Only fishermen who have previously been issued endorsement letters based on meeting specific landings criteria may possess summer flounder, scup and black sea bass.
- 4. Pound nets shall not be used to take any fish in the area lying between lines drawn south in Long Island Sound to the New York state line from Fenwick Dock, Old Saybrook, and from Mill Creek (Mile Creek), Old Lyme. Pound nets must be set at least one mile (5,280 feet) from the documented location of any other pound net.
- 5. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required:** Only for the principal vessel, but not those vessels assisting a permitted vessel (see page 8).
- 6. Report Required: A trip catch log must be maintained and submitted either upon completion of the book or at the end of each month, whichever occurs first. A logbook must be available for inspection while you are landing or engaged in the licensed activity unless you have just submitted a completed book. Bluefish landed for commercial purposes may also have to be reported weekly for quota monitoring purposes (see page 23).

Fishermen who sell their catch out-of state, on consignment, or directly to the public, must now report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEP. In the case of direct sale to the public, modifications have been made to the logbook to eliminate the need for a separate report. If you are selling on consignment, you must contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for further information on how to report.

Commercial Horseshoe Crab License

Authorizes the licensee to: Take horseshoe crabs only by hand for personal use or for sale.

- 1. This license is available only to those who held a Connecticut Department of Agriculture Conch License from January 1, 1995 through July 1, 2000.
- 2. All persons, including helpers, engaged in the hand harvest of horseshoe crabs must be licensed with a Commercial Horseshoe Crab License or a Commercial Finfish License. Note: persons assisting in the transport of horseshoe crabs from the beach to vehicles need not have a license.
- 3. The landing or possession of Horseshoe Crabs in Connecticut is prohibited unless the license holder has in his possession a Horseshoe Crab Endorsement Letter. These letters are required in addition to a Commercial Finfish License or a Commercial Horseshoe Crab License and have been mailed to qualifying fishermen. Contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for information on qualification criteria.
- 4. **Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required:** Only if the activities authorized by this license are conducted with the aid of a boat (see page 8).
- 5. Report Required: A trip catch log must be maintained and submitted either upon completion of the book or at the end of each month, whichever occurs first. A logbook must be available for inspection while you are landing or engaged in the licensed activity unless you have just submitted a completed book.

Fishermen who sell their catch out-of state, on consignment, or directly to the public, must now report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEP. In the case of direct sale to the public, modifications have been made to the logbook to eliminate the need for a separate report. If you are selling on consignment, you must contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for further information on how to report.

Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit

All Applicants...... \$50.00

Authorizes: Use of a vessel for activities authorized under any commercial fishing or finfish license (e.g. use of a commercial fishing gear type, even if for personal use purposes). During commercial fishing, a holder of a Connecticut Commercial Fishing License, Commercial Lobster Pot License, Commercial Finfish License, Commercial Landing License or a Commercial Horseshoe Crab License must be present and anyone operating a pound net must do so with the permission of the pound net registrant.

- 1. Each vessel engaged in an activity authorized by a commercial fishing license (except for American shad fishing, inland and marine commercial bait fishing, blue crabbing, and the Party & Charter Fishing Vessel Registration) must be permitted with the Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit.
- 2. While tending a pound net, only the principal vessel is required to have a vessel permit.
- 3. Report Required: None.

Party and Charter Fishing Vessel Registration

All Applicants...... \$250.00

Authorizes the Registrant to: Operate a party/charter boat or for-hire recreational vessel to take marine species in Connecticut waters or land marine species at Connecticut ports, regardless of where those species are taken (e.g. tidal waters of the inland district). This includes "fly fishing" boats. A separate Party & Charter Fishing Vessel Registration is required for each vessel operated for this purpose.

- 1. See General Provisions Finfish on Page 15.
- 2. The owner, operator, or captain of the vessel may sell the boat's or crew's share of any tuna species catch as long as they meet all state and federal regulations. The sale of any other species is prohibited.
- 3. Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required: No.
- 4. Report Required: The DEP participates in National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS), Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS) by conducting interviews with marine recreational anglers in order to collect fishing trip and catch information. In 2003, NMFS initiated a new "For Hire Survey" under the MRFSS to improve both data collection and estimation methods in the charter and party/head boat fishery. As part of the survey, DEP personnel perform dockside interviews with charter boat anglers upon trip completion and conduct angler interviews while at sea onboard party/head boats to gather data on catch and catch composition. The DEP only interviews vessels operating from Connecticut ports. In the other part of the survey, vessel captains are randomly contacted by telephone to estimate fishing effort. The submission of a state report form is not required at this time. However, those vessels permitted to fish under Federal Multi-species Fishery Management Plan requirements (groundfish) must still submit Vessel Trip Reports (VTR's) to NMFS.

Seafood Dealers License

All Applicants...... \$200.00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Purchase lobsters, crabs including horseshoe crabs, squid, sea scallops, and finfish from commercial fishermen for resale, including resale in restaurants.

- All individuals or firms who purchase for resale from any commercial fishermen any of these resources landed in Connecticut must be so licensed. A license plate will not be issued with the resale license.
- 2. Holders of the Connecticut Seafood Dealers License and owners and employees of establishments in which lobster are sold may possess lobsters imported from areas in which the minimum length is less than the LMA 6 minimum length (see page 13), provided: (1) such lobsters are not taken from Lobster Management Area (LMA) 6 (the waters of Long Island Sound and western Block Island Sound) or landed in Connecticut; and (2) such lobsters are not less than the minimum legal length in effect for the waters of the LMA, state or country of origin and are not less than 3-1/4 inches carapace length, regardless where taken; and (3) such lobsters are not bartered, exchanged, sold or offered for sale to retail consumers in this state; and (4) the seafood dealer, wholesaler or shipper possesses a manifest, bill of lading, invoice, purchase order or other written documentation identifying the state, lobster management area or country of origin of the lobsters received, the number of lobsters received that are less than the LMA 6 minimum length and the date received. The documentation shall be retained for a period of six months and made available to law enforcement officers upon request.

While seafood dealers, wholesalers and shippers can possess lobsters less than the LMA 6 minimum length for sale outside of Connecticut, fishermen, markets, stores and restaurants selling lobsters to the public **must** adhere to and not possess or sell lobster less than LMA 6 minimum length.

- 3. Persons interested in purchasing molluscan shellfish should contact the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture at 203-874-0696.
- 4. Report Required: All transactions from licensed Connecticut commercial fishermen must be reported on forms provided for this purpose. These reports are submitted at the end of each month. A report form must be submitted for each month for which the purchaser is licensed, even if none of the identified resources were purchased from commercial fishermen. In this instance, complete and submit the form for the applicable month with the words None Purchased, your name, and license number. In addition, weekly summary reports are required for those species managed by a Connecticut State quota.

Fishermen who sell their catch out-of state, on consignment, or directly to the public, must report those transactions (date, port landed, quantity, price, market category and disposition) to the DEP. In the case of direct sale to the public, modifications have been made to the logbook to eliminate the need for a separate report. If you are selling on consignment, you must contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for further information on how to report.

Seafood dealers who also hold a federal permit are required by federal regulations to report electronically. Since that data is shared with the DEP, such dealers do not have to submit paper reports to the DEP. They are however, bound by DEP timeliness requirements and subject to the consequences of delinquent reporting.

Bait Dealers License

All Applicants...... \$50.00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Possess for the purpose of sale, to sell or to offer for sale any bait species listed in Appendix IV: Bait Species (page 29).

Report Required: Each bait dealer shall make an annual report on forms provided.

Prohibited: Possession of live carp or goldfish for any purpose on premises used by licensed bait dealers.

Personal Use Lobster License

All applicants...... \$60.00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Take lobsters for personal use (not for sale) by the use of not more than ten lobster pots or traps, by hand, by skin-diving, or by SCUBA diving. Personal Use license holders may not set, haul or have in the water more than ten pots per day. See additional instructions provided with the license.

- 1. All pots must be tagged. Tags must be purchased using the same application with which you purchase your license.
- 2. Those who accompany and assist the license holder when setting and tending pots or traps require no license. However, the license holder must be present when pots or traps are set or tended. Each person engaged in taking lobsters by hand, skin diving or SCUBA diving requires a license.
- 3. Fish taken in personal use lobster pots may be kept for personal use (not for sale) but the number may not exceed the recreational "creel limit" (see Table 2 on page 15). Minimum length and seasonal restrictions also apply.
- 4. See Gear Restrictions under General Provisions Lobsters on page 12 for specific information on lobster gear.
- 5. **Report Required:** A daily record of the number of lobsters caught and effort used is required on the form provided for this purpose. The form must be submitted at the end of the year.

Personal Use Gillnet for Menhaden License

All Applicants...... \$50.00

Authorizes the Licensee to: Take menhaden (bunker) for personal use, from marine waters only, by the use of a single, personally attended gillnet not more than 60 feet in length. The gillnet must be tended by the license holder at all times.

Report Required: A daily report of menhaden caught and effort used is required on the form provided for this purpose. The report form must be submitted at the end of the year.

Environmental Tourism Cruise Vessel Permit

All Applicants...... \$50.00

Authorizes: Use of a vessel for a fee for purposes of education and observation, and retention of unregulated marine and estuarine resources. Holders of a scientific collector's permit issued to accredited persons and institutions are not required to obtain the environmental tourism cruise vessel permit.

- Each vessel engaged in the permitted activity must be issued an Environmental Tourism Cruise Vessel Permit.
- Use of fishing gear not authorized for use by commercial fishing license holders is subject to conditions established by the Department. Contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for further information.
- 3. Commercial Fishing Vessel Permit Required: No.
- 4. Report Required: None

When A License Is Not Required

A commercial license is **not** required in the following circumstances:

- In the marine district, a commercial license is not required to take, for personal use only, menhaden, hickory shad, sea herring, eels, lampreys and bait species by the use of:
 - cast nets:
 - minnow traps not more than twenty inches long and fifteen inches in diameter;
 - scoop or scap nets not more than 36 inches in diameter;
 - umbrella nets not more than four feet in length by four feet in width;
 - · seines not more than thirty feet in length; and
 - no more than two eel pots.
- 2. In the marine district, no license is required to fish for finfish recreationally or for personal consumption by hook & line or spearing. However, if an angler sells even one fish, a Commercial Finfish License is required (spearing is prohibited as a gear type for commercial fishing).
- 3. No license is required in the inland or marine districts to take blue crabs for personal consumption. A Commercial Blue Crab License is required if crabs are sold (see page 7).

The following table summarizes instances where a commercial license is or is not needed. Refer to the license types above for specific license requirements. See General Provisions (page 1) for specific rules regarding licensing, reporting and fishing in federal waters.

Table 1. Activities for Which a License is and is Not Required

Activity	Commercial	Personal Use
Angling in Marine Waters	Yes	No ¹
Angling in the Inland District	Prohibited	Yes
Trawling	Yes	Yes
Gill Netting	Yes	Yes ²
Lobster pots, fish pots, pound nets	Yes	Yes
Blue Crabbing (see item 3 above)	Yes	No
Use of Other gear in the Marine District	Commercial	Personal Use
Seines (less than 30 feet, see item 1 above)	Yes	No
Seines (all other activities except those listed in item 1 above)	Yes	Yes
Minnow traps (small, see item 1 above)	Yes	No
Minnow traps (all other activities except those listed in item 1 above)	Yes	Yes
Scoop or scap nets (small, see item 1 above)	Yes	No
Scoop or scap nets (all other activities except those listed in item 1 above)	Yes	Yes
Two or less eel pots (see item 1 above)	Yes	No
More than two eel pots	Yes	Yes
Cast Nets (see item 1 above)	Yes	No

¹ Individual anglers on party and charter vessels are not required to be licensed to engage in sport fishing, but the vessel must be registered.

² A personal use gill net license is required to take menhaden for personal use, from marine waters only, by use of a single gillnet not more than 60 feet in length (see Personal Use Gillnet for Menhaden License, page 10).

General Provisions – Lobsters

License Requirements

- A license to take lobsters from Connecticut waters, or a landing license, is required to bring lobsters
 ashore or possess them on Connecticut waters, except when the lobsters are brought from ashore or
 obtained from a person licensed to take or sell lobsters. In addition, any fisherman in Connecticut,
 with lobsters taken from the waters of another state, must have in his or her possession a valid
 license issued by that state.
- 2. Unless otherwise allowed by DEP regulation or the General Statutes, persons not licensed to set or tend lobster pots are prohibited from doing so unless the licensed lobsterman is present (for exceptions, see items 3 and 4). A licensed lobsterman must have written permission from the owner with him while fishing in order to possess, tend or set the pots of that fisherman. Both fishermen must be holders of the same type of lobster license. Regardless of this permission, however, a holder of a personal use lobster license may not haul, check, or take lobsters from more than ten pots in one day.
- 3. In the event a lobster license holder is injured or incapacitated and temporarily unable to lobster, he may apply to the Marine Fisheries Division for a temporary license for a family member or crewman to keep his business operating.
- 4. A lobster pot fisherman may allow another license holder to haul pots with his pot tags for up to 30 trips in a year without authorization from the Department. He may request permission from the DEP to have one other license holder haul his pots for more than 30 trips in a year if the other licensee is a family member, employer, employee or partner.
- 5. Fishermen who wish to take lobsters in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (outside of Long Island Sound and greater than 3 miles from shore) must possess a federal lobster fishing permit. Holders of a federal permit and a Connecticut license must obey the more restrictive of the federal or state regulations when landing in Connecticut. In 1995, the National Marine Fisheries Service implemented a limited access program for lobstering in the EEZ. Persons who did not qualify to lobster in the EEZ based on their fishing history prior to March 25, 1991 are prohibited from doing so for the duration of the moratorium.

Trap Tags

- DEP regulations establish lobster pot limits in Long Island Sound and the rules for tagging lobster pots. Please refer to the information mailed with your Authorization to Fish Lobster Pots (commercial fishery) in January or February of each year and information provided with your license for further information on obtaining pot tags.
- 2. If you are a Connecticut resident with a Federal Lobster Permit, you must receive your authorization to purchase lobster pot tags from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. A *Fishing Area Election Form* will be mailed to each Federal Permit Holder when the *Authorization to Fish Lobster Pots* is mailed in January or February.
- 3. Individual trap allocations have been implemented for Lobster Management Area (LMA) 2 (eastern Block Island Sound, Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts). Contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division to obtain information on qualifying criteria.

Gear Restrictions

- 1. Lobster pots fished in Connecticut waters may not exceed 22,950 cubic inches, in any combination of length, height and width.
- 2. Lobster pots used in Connecticut waters must have an approved escape vent in the parlor section of the pot. Lath spacing is an acceptable means of venting traps. See Appendix VI: Escape Vents and Escape Panels in Lobster Pots on page 30.
- 3. Wire or plastic lobster pots must contain escapement panels having a degradable fastener or opening (see Appendix VI: Escape Vents and Escape Panels in Lobster Pots, page 30).
- 4. The CT fishing license plate number must be legibly branded on the top of all live cars, lobster pots and similar devices, in figures not less than 3/4 inch in height. The license plate number must be branded or painted on all lobster pot buoys in figures not less than 3/4 inch in height. If lobster pots are purchased from another fisherman, removal or obliteration of his number is prohibited. The original owner's number should be left intact and the new number added. Retain a bill of sale to prove ownership.

- 5. All lobster buoys fished by a fisherman must be of the same color or pattern of coloration (you select the color and pattern of your choice) and one buoy must be displayed in a conspicuous location while engaged in lobstering (from departure to return).
- 6. Setting or tending, or assisting in setting or tending lobster pots or lobster holding cars from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise is prohibited.
- 7. Setting lobster pots so that the buoys are deployed in navigation channels marked by U.S. Coast Guard channel markers is prohibited.
- 8. Setting the buoys of lobster pots in "fairways" at any time, or mooring areas from May 1 October 15 is prohibited when such areas are formally designated as prohibited areas in an approved Harbor Management Plan. Fishermen should check with local authorities to determine the status of harbor management measures in their area.
- 9. Taking lobsters with spears or hooks of any kind is prohibited. Possession of lobsters taken by any method that pierces the shell is prohibited.

Possession Restrictions

- 1. The possession of any lobster less than the minimum legal length, the possession of any lobster bearing external eggs, or the possession of any lobster from which external eggs have been removed is prohibited. Any lobster less than the minimum length and any lobster bearing external eggs under the tail (abdomen) must be returned immediately, and without avoidable injury, to the water from which taken. Possession of female lobsters bearing a V-notch mark at least 1/8 inch in depth, with or without setal hairs, and tapering to a point in the flipper next to, and to the right of the center flipper as viewed from the rear of the lobster. Possession of lobsters mutilated so that such a mark might be obscured is also prohibited.
- 2. The minimum legal length for Lobster Management Area (LMA) 6 (Long Island Sound and western Block Island Sound) is 3-5/16 inches carapace length.
- 3. In Connecticut, lobsters must be measured so that the body shell (carapace) is at least the LMA 6 minimum length. Lobster gauges for determining compliance with the minimum length are available from DEP (Marine Fisheries Division, Old Lyme or Licensing and Revenue Unit, 79 Elm Street, Hartford) and certain local outlets. It is recommended that this type gauge be used and that it be checked frequently for accuracy. The following procedure should be used to measure lobsters: Insert one end of the gauge into the rear of the eye socket (to the rear of the eye). Hold the gauge perpendicular to the body shell and parallel with the "center line" of the shell. If the gauge does not reach the rear end of the body shell (between the body and the tail), the lobster can be kept. If the gauge fits over the shell, it must fit tightly for the lobster to be kept. Any movement between the gauge and the body shell is proof that the lobster is less than the minimum length and must be returned to the water.
- 4. Any fishermen that **elects** to fish in more than one LMA must abide by the most restrictive minimum gauge size (and maximum gauge size, if applicable) in effect for all of the areas elected, regardless of where the lobsters are taken.
- 5. Holders of the Connecticut Seafood Dealers License and owners and employees of establishments in which lobster are sold may possess lobsters imported from areas in which the minimum length is less than the LMA 6 minimum length, provided: (1) such lobsters are not taken from Lobster Management Area (LMA) 6 (the waters of Long Island Sound and western Block Island Sound) or landed in Connecticut; and (2) such lobsters are not less than the minimum legal length in effect for the waters of the LMA, state or country of origin and are not less than 3-1/4 inches carapace length, regardless where taken; and (3) such lobsters are not bartered, exchanged, sold or offered for sale to retail consumers in this state; and (4) the seafood dealer, wholesaler or shipper possesses a manifest, bill of lading, invoice, purchase order or other written documentation identifying the state, lobster management area or country of origin of the lobsters received, the number of lobsters received that are less than the LMA 6 minimum length and the date received. The documentation shall be retained for a period of six months and made available to law enforcement officers upon request. While seafood dealers, wholesalers and shippers can possess lobsters less than the LMA 6 minimum length, for sale outside of Connecticut, fishermen, markets, stores and restaurants selling lobsters to the public must adhere to and not possess or sell lobster less than the LMA 6 minimum length.
- 6. In Connecticut waters, trawlers with trawl gear capable of taking lobsters may not possess more than 100 lobsters, per trip or per day whichever is the longer period of time. This limit applies to the aggregate of all persons on board. By Act of the New York legislature, trawlers on the New York waters of Long Island Sound may not possess lobsters. Consequently, New York trawlers may not possess lobsters on Connecticut waters. For fishing with methods other than lobster pots in offshore waters outside of Long Island Sound, the possession of more than 100 lobsters per day up to a maximum of 500 lobsters per trip is prohibited, regardless of the length of the trip.

- 7. Lobsters taken by hand or by SCUBA divers must be measured immediately on capture (before the lobsters are placed in a dive bag). Those taken by other license holders must be measured immediately on removal from the gear used to take them. Personal use license holders can retain fish, but not blue crabs, for personal use according to the sport fishery creel limits listed in Table 2. Recreational Fishery Minimum Lengths, Creel Limits and Open Seasons, on page 15.
- 8. Federal law prohibits the possession of **any** lobster parts by holders of a federal permit to take lobsters, regardless of where the lobsters were taken. For holders of a Connecticut license that do not also hold a federal lobster permit, the landing or possession on the waters of this state of any portion of a lobster including meat, claws or tails, except when legally brought into such waters from ashore or except for immediate personal consumption, is prohibited.

General Provisions - Finfish

Recreational Fishery

The tagging of fish in the marine district is prohibited unless the person applying the tag is doing so under a tagging program consistent with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's standards for scientific tagging programs. Further restrictions apply to the tagging of striped bass (see page25).

The act of "culling or "high-grading" is prohibited. Any fish placed on a stringer, in a container, cooler, live well or similar devise, or otherwise not immediately released to the water shall count against the daily creel limit.

No person, club, or organization shall conduct, in Connecticut marine waters, a fishing tournament or derby that is open to persons sixteen years of age or older without having first registered such tournament or derby. Please contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for registration details.

Length limits, creel limits, and open seasons are specified in DEP regulations and posted at fishing locations throughout the state. The following limits are in effect in early 2008, however, they are subject to change at any time in order to comply with interstate fishery management plans. Contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for current information. Fish less than these lengths may not be possessed in Connecticut, regardless of where taken. Lengths are total lengths (tip of the snout to the end of the tail). Any fish less than the minimum length shall, without avoidable injury, be returned immediately to the water from which taken. Creel limits apply on the waters or shores of this state, regardless of where taken.

Table 2. Recreational Fishery Minimum Lengths, Creel Limits and Open Seasons

Length Limit	Minimum Size (total length)	Creel Limit	Open Season	
Black sea bass	12 inches	25	Year Round	
Bluefish	None	10	Year Round	
Atlantic cod	22 inches	10	Year Round	
Haddock	19 inches	None	Year Round	
American eel	6 inches	50	Year Round	
Summer flounder (fluke)	19.5 inches ¹	5	May 24 thru Sep 1	
Winter flounder	12 inches	10	Apr 1 thru May 30	
Yellowtail flounder	13 inches	None	Year Round	
Pollock	19 inches	None	Year Round	
Red Drum	Maximum length of 27 inches	None	Year Round	
American shad	None	6, American & hickory	Year Round ²	
Hickory shad	None	shad combined ²	Year Round ²	
Monkfish	17 inches total length	Name - Van Baund	Year Round	
MONKIISH	11 inches tail length	None	Year Round	
Scup (shore / private boat)	10.5 inches	10	May 24 thru Sep 26	
Coun (north and abortar)	11 inches	10	Jun 12 thru Aug 31	
Scup (party and charter)	11 inches	45	Sep 1 thru Oct 15	
Striped bass	28 inches	2	Year Round	
		4	Jan 1 thru Apr 30	
Tautog (blackfish)	14 inches	2	Jul 1 thru Aug 31	
		4	Oct 1 thru Dec 6	
Weakfish	16 inches	6	Year Round	
White perch	7 inches	30	Year Round	

¹There is a special restriction on filleting summer flounder (fluke). While engaged in sport-fishing activities, possession of summer flounder fillets less than 18 inches in length is prohibited unless the "rack" (carcass) of the fish from which the fillet was removed has been retained and is at least 18 inches in length. This regulation does not prohibit filleting summer flounder on shore or dockside.

²In marine waters only. For Inland waters, consult the Connecticut Angler's Guide for seasons.

Commercial Fishery - Minimum Lengths

Listed below are the minimum legal lengths (total length – TL) of marine fish regulated by the CT DEP. Regardless of where they were taken, fish less than these lengths may not be possessed if taken by commercial fishing gear or for commercial purposes, and they may not be bought, sold, offered for sale or possessed in a place where fish are offered for sale. Any fish less than the minimum length taken by commercial fishing gear shall, without avoidable injury, be returned immediately to the water from which taken.

Table 3. Commercial Fishery Minimum Lengths

Species	Minimum length (total length)
American plaice	14 inches
Atlantic cod	22 inches
Atlantic tomcod	7 inches
Black sea bass	11 inches
Bluefish	9 inches
Fluke (summer flounder)	14 inches ¹
Haddock	19 inches
Monkfish (goosefish)	17 inches, 11 inches tail size
Pollock	19 inches
Red drum (South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico)	Maximum length of 27 inches
Redfish (Gulf of Maine)	9 inches
Scup (porgy)	9 inches
Tautog (blackfish)	14 inches
Weakfish	16 inches
Winter flounder	12 inches
Witch flounder	14 inches
Yellowtail flounder	13 inches
Striped bass legally taken from another state's waters and landed in CT	28 inches

There is a special restriction on filleting summer flounder (fluke). While engaged in commercial fishing activities, possession of summer flounder fillets less than 14 inches in length is prohibited unless the "rack" (carcass) of the fish from which the fillet was removed has been retained and is at least 14 inches in length. This regulation does not prohibit filleting summer flounder on shore or dockside.

Mesh of Nets in Connecticut Waters

All measurements below are stretched mesh, when wet after use.

Trawl Nets

For the purposes of the following trawl net rules, *codend* is the retaining bag of the net. The *minimum mesh size* is the maximum opening of any single mesh, measured when wet after use as the median of 11 consecutive measurements taken at least 5 meshes from the lacings parallel to the longitudinal axis of the net. The *body of the net* is the main part of the net immediately behind (posterior to) the footrope, excluding the wings. The *extension of the net* is that part of the net between the body and the codend. A *fly net* is an otter trawl constructed of a minimum of 8 inch stretched mesh webbing in the wings and forward body (belly) section extending at least 35 meshes or 23 feet along the longitudinal axis of the net.

The use of trawl gear in Connecticut is prohibited from March 1 through April 14, except for the use of fly net gear for sea herring (see item 1 below). At other times, the trawl net minimum mesh size in Connecticut waters is 5-1/2 inch diamond or 6 inch square mesh in the cod end, with the following exceptions:

- 1. From May 1 through October 31, inclusive, when in possession of more than 100 pounds of summer flounder or from November 1 through April 31, inclusive, when in possession of more than 200 pounds of summer flounder, no person shall use any trawl net with a mesh size in the body, extension or codend less than 5-1/2 inches diamond mesh or 6 inches square mesh.
- 2. From November 1 through April 30, inclusive, if a person on a vessel is in possession of 100 pounds or less of winter flounder or 200 pounds or less of summer flounder, he may use a fly net with a codend mesh of any size to take Atlantic herring.

- 3. From May 1 through October 31 inclusive, no person shall use any trawl net with a mesh size less than 4-1/2 inches diamond mesh or 5 inches square mesh with the following exceptions:
 - A person may use a trawl net with mesh of any size in the body and wings of the net provided the codend is at least 75 meshes in length and the terminal 75 meshes of the codend have a mesh size of no less than 5 inches diamond mesh or 5-1/2 inches square mesh.
 - For the taking of squid from May 15 through July 31, inclusive, a person may use a trawl net with a mesh of any size provided the codend mesh size is no less than 1-7/8 inches diamond mesh and no more than 100 pounds of scup or 100 pounds of black sea bass are in his possession.
- 4. No person shall possess more than 100 pounds of winter flounder while fishing with a trawl net with a codend mesh less than 6-1/2 inches diamond mesh or 6-1/2 inches square mesh.
- 5. From May 1 through October 31, inclusive, no person shall possess more than 200 pounds of scup while fishing with a trawl net that does not:
 - have a mesh size of at least 5 inches diamond mesh or 5-1/2 inches square mesh throughout the entire net; or
 - have a codend at least 75 meshes in length and the terminal 75 meshes of the codend have a mesh size no less than 5 inches diamond mesh or 5-1/2 inches square mesh.
- 6. From May 1 to October 31, inclusive, no person shall possess more than 100 pounds of black sea bass unless the net has a codend of at least 75 meshes in length and the terminal 75 meshes of the codend have a mesh size no less than 5 inches diamond mesh or 5-1/2 inches square mesh.

The following restrictions pertaining to the use of trawl gear also apply:

- 7. In Connecticut waters, no person shall possess any codend or trawl net with mesh sizes smaller than specified in paragraphs 1 through 6 above on any vessel having winter flounder, summer flounder, black sea bass or scup on board in excess of the limits specified in paragraphs 1 through 6 unless the codend is detached from the main body of the net or the entire trawl net is removed and detached from the net reel or is covered on a net reel and is bound securely and unavailable for immediate use.
- 8. The use of any means, device or material, including but not limited to ropes, lines, liners, net strengtheners, or double nets, which obstructs or diminishes the size of the meshes in the top of the codend or of that part of the net which does not contact the seabed during normal fishing activity, is prohibited. All netting in trawl nets not made on a braiding machine, whether of braided or twisted twine, whether machine or hand made, shall have only one knot, which shall be the weavers knot or sheet bend. The ends of the twine, called bars, that exit the knot shall be constructed so that their lay does not cross or twist.
- 9. Any person who takes winter flounder or summer flounder while fishing with a codend with a mesh size less than 5-1/2 inches diamond or six inches square, and any person who takes scup or black sea bass while fishing with a codend with a mesh size less than 4 1/2 inches diamond or five inches square mesh, shall separate these fish by species and keep these fish apart from the main catch. All threshold limits specified in paragraphs 1 through 6 above shall apply to the aggregate of all persons onboard the vessel.
- 10. No bottom trawl net shall be equipped with rollers or cookies in excess of six inches in diameter.

Trawl Net Mesh Size Options 4-1/2" diamond or 5" square mesh size in the entire net. Standard Mesh: Mar 1 - Apr 14: 5-1/2" diamond or 6" square codend mesh size Mesh in body and wings may be of any size IF: the codend is at least 75 meshes long AND Atlantic herring fly nets, codend mesh any size. the terminal 75 meshes of the codend are 5" diamond or 5-1/2" square mesh Nov 1 - Apr 30 May 1 - Oct 31 For squid, 1-7/8" diamond codend mesh size. May 15 – Jul 31 Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr Jun Jul Aug

Figure 1. Trawl Net Mesh Size Options

† Fishing for Atlantic herring with a fly net is permitted during this period.

Summer flounder (Figure 2), winter flounder (Figure 3), scup (Figure 4) and black sea bass (Figure 5) have possession threshold limits that are dependent on the time of year and mesh size and/or net configuration. In addition, summer flounder, scup and black sea bass are quota-managed species and also have quota-dependent possession limits that vary according to the percentage of the quota landed. No person may possess more than the lesser of these two possession limits.

Figure 2. Summer Flounder Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits

Summer Flounder Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits			
More than 100 pounds? Mesh in body, extension or codend mesh must be at least 5-1/2" diamond or 6" square.	More than 200 pounds? Mesh in body, extension and codend must be at least 5-1/2 " diamond or 6" square.	Mar 1 - Apr 14: Trawling Prohibited † 5-1/2 6	
		Ĭ	
100 pounds or less? Any other mesh or net option in Figure 1.	200 pounds or less? Any other mesh or net option in Figure 1.		
May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct	Nov Dec Jan Feb	Mar Apr	

Figure 3. Winter Flounder Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits

	Winter Flounder Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits											
	More than 100 pounds? Codend mesh must be at least 6-1/2" diamond or 6-1/2" square mesh. Mar 1 - Apr 14: 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17 100, 17											
	100 pounds or less? Any other mesh or net option in Figure 1.											
May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	r

Figure 4. Scup Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits

	Scup Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits											
More than 200 pounds? Throughout the entire net, the mesh must be at least 5" diamond or 5-1/2" square. or Mesh in the body and wings may be of any size BUT: the codend must be at least 75 meshes long AND the terminal 75 meshes of the codend must be at least 5" diamond or 5-½" square.						Any quantity Any mesh or net option in Figure 1. Mar 1 - Apr 14: Trawling Prohibite						Any
200 pounds or less? Any other mesh or net option in Figure 1. Note: if using a squid net, only 100 lbs. or less of scup may be possessed.												
May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aı	or

Figure 5. Black Sea Bass Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits

	Black Sea Bass Mesh Size-dependent Possession Limits											
the termi	More than 100 pounds? Mesh in the body and wings may be of any size BUT: the codend is at least 75 meshes long AND the terminal 75 meshes of the codend are at least 5" diamond or 5-½" square.					Ar		uantity option in Figure	e 1.	Mar 1 - Apr Trawling Prohil		Any
	100 pounds or less? Any other mesh or net option in Figure 1.											
May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	A	pr

Pounds, Trap nets, Fyke Nets, Weirs

Mesh size shall be not less than 2 inches.

Seines

Mesh size shall be not less than 2-1/2 inches except:

- 1. For taking American shad not less than 5 inches,
- 2. For taking lamprey eels not less than 2 inches,
- 3. For taking tomcod, not less than 1-1/2 inches and 50 feet of the center or bunt of each seine shall be not less than 1-1/4 inches.

Gill Nets

- 1. **Inland District** Mesh size shall be not less than 5 inches except that gill nets used for taking white perch, catfish species, and yellow perch shall have a mesh not less than 3-1/2 inches.
- 2. **Marine District** Mesh size shall be not less than 3 inches except that:
- 3. For taking American shad, not less than 5 inches,
- 4. For taking tomcod, not less than 1-1/4 inches,
- 5. For taking white perch, yellow perch, and catfish species, not less than 3-1/2 inches.

6. The use of gill nets constructed of single or multiple strands of material known as *monofilament* is prohibited for taking American shad from sunrise to sunset. The twine thickness of any such gillnet shall be no greater than 0.28mm diameter (#69).

Scoop Nets for Taking American Shad

Mesh size shall be not less than 5 inches.

Minnow Seines and Traps for Taking Only the Bait Species Listed in Appendix IV: Bait Species Mesh size may be any size.

Fish Pots

- 1. Fish pots shall only be used to take fish; the taking of lobsters and blue crabs in fish pots is prohibited.
- 2. Fish pots cannot be more than 6 feet long, wide or high.
- 3. Escape vents are required and must be at least 3.1 inches circular or 2-1/4 inches x 2-1/4 inches square. Escapement ("ghost") panels are also required and, when open, must have an opening of at least 7-3/4 inches x 7-3/4 inches square or which allows the entire end or side of a trap to be open. The panel must be held closed by ungalvanized, uncoated wire not more than 3/32 inches thick, magnesium alloy fasteners or timed release "pop up" devices, or untreated natural fiber such as cotton, hemp, or jute string 3/16 inches in thickness or smaller. Escape vents and panels may not be placed on the bottom of the pots.
- 4. Fish pots and their buoys must have the commercial finfish plate number on them in numbers at least 3/4 inches high.

Construction of Minnow Traps

- 1. Minnow traps for the taking of bait species only shall have a length of not more than 36 inches and a diameter of not more than 18 inches.
- 2. Minnow traps shall be equipped with not more than 2 funnels and the entrance opening shall not exceed 1-1/2 inches in diameter.
- 3. Minnow traps shall not be equipped with leader or wing.

Prohibited Finfish Gear Types

- 1. Roller rig gill nets used to encircle bluefish are prohibited. Roller rig gill net is defined as a gill net that is set or retrieved mechanically, electrically, or hydraulically. In addition, the use of purse seines or pair trawls to take bluefish is prohibited.
- 2. Spears or spearing of any kind is defined as a recreational activity subject to all sport-fishing restrictions (length and creel limits, etc.). Commercial fishing with spears is prohibited.
- 3. Use of trawl nets in Connecticut waters is prohibited from March 1 through April 14 except for the use of fly net gear for sea herring (see Trawl Nets, page 16).
- Purse seines.

Areas of the Inland District Open to Commercial Fishing

In the Inland District, commercial fishing is permitted only in the following areas and only for the species listed in Appendix V: Species That May Be Taken Commercially in the Inland District (page 30):

Connecticut River System

- 1. The main body of the river from the I-95 bridge at Old Saybrook-Old Lyme to the Massachusetts-Connecticut state line (for American shad, only south of the Putnam Bridge in Glastonbury).
- 2. The coves and portions of tributaries which are subject to tidal fluctuation except the Farmington River and its coves and flood waters and the Salmon River and its coves and flood waters (except for American shad).
- 3. The temporary or seasonal pools formed by the floodwaters of the Connecticut River.
- 4. That portion of the Hockanum River lying within the boundaries of the township of East Hartford.
- 5. Bait species as defined in section 26-142a-1(n) may be taken for commercial purposes in the Hockanum River and its impoundments or portions of impoundments within the township of East Hartford.

- 6. That portion of the Blackhall River which lies within the inland district and which is subject to tidal fluctuation.
- That portion of the Lieutenant River which lies within the inland district and which is subject to tidal fluctuations.

Housatonic River System

- 1. The main body of the river from the Merritt Parkway upstream to the Derby electric plant in Derby.
- 2. The coves and portions of tributaries subject to tidal fluctuation.
- 3. The temporary or seasonal pools formed by the floodwaters of the Housatonic River within the limits established by item 1 above.
- 4. The impoundments known as Lake Housatonic and Lake Zoar may be fished commercially for eels, carp and suckers only.

Quinnipiac River System

- 1. The main body of the river lying between the marine-inland district demarcation line and a point five hundred feet downstream of the Hanover Dam, Meriden.
- 2. The coves and portions of tributaries subject to tidal fluctuation.
- 3. Bait species may be taken for commercial purposes in the river and its impoundments to a point five hundred feet downstream of the Hanover Dam, Meriden.

Thames River System

- 1. The main body of the river which lies within the inland district and which is subject to tidal fluctuation.
- 2. The coves and portions of tributaries subject to tidal fluctuation.
- 3. The temporary or seasonal pools caused by floodwaters within the limits established by item 1 above.

Quinebaug River System

Bait species may be taken for commercial purposes in the main body of the river from the Massachusetts state line downstream to the bridge on Route 6 at Danielson and from its impoundments or portions of impoundments from the Massachusetts state line downstream to Providence Street in Putnam.

French River System

- 1. The main body of the river lying within the boundaries of the township of Thompson.
- 2. Bait species may be taken for commercial purposes in the main body of the river and its impoundments lying within the township of Thompson.

Shetucket River System

- Bait species may be taken for commercial purposes in the main body of the river and its impoundments from the junction of the Willimantic River and Natchaug River downstream to the Scotland Dam, Windham.
- 2. Bait species may be taken for commercial purposes in the main body of the river and its impoundments from the Route 97 bridge in Sprague downstream to the bridge on Route 12 in Lisbon-Norwich.

Species-Specific Area Restrictions

- The fishery for alewives and blueback herring is closed in all marine and most inland waters. See Alewives and Blueback Herring (Alosa pseudoharengus, Alosa aestivalis) under Species Restrictions on page 22.
- 2. White perch, catfish species, and yellow perch may be taken for commercial purposes only in the following specified areas of the Connecticut and Thames Rivers:
 - The Chester Cove in the town of Chester, and from the I-95 bridge in Old Saybrook-Old Lyme to Whalebone Creek range light number forty but not including Hamburg Cove and the Eight Mile River in the township of Lyme.
 - The Thames River, its coves and floodwaters from 500 feet north of the I-95 Bridge, New London
 to the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge, Montville-Preston. In the Thames River, these species may not
 be taken with gill nets or trawl nets.

Areas Closed to Commercial Fishing

1. Commercial fishing with hook and line is prohibited in all areas of the inland district.

- 2. Navigable channels as indicated by Coast Guard channel markers. This area closure applies only to the buoys of lobster pots, fish pots, eel pots, and to anchored or fixed gill nets, trap nets, fyke nets and pound nets.
- 3. The use of fixed commercial fishing gear is prohibited in "fairways" on a year round basis and mooring areas from May 1-October 15, if such fairways and mooring areas are identified as prohibited areas in a Harbor Management Plan approved by the Department. Unbuoyed lobster pots, fish pots, eel pots, or pots set in such a way that the buoys are not placed in the fairways or mooring areas are not prohibited. Fairways are defined as unmarked harbor navigation channels as established through the local harbor management planning process. For information regarding the status of Harbor Management Plans in your area, contact local authorities.
- 4. That portion of North Cove, as indicated by posters and known as Fall River, in the township of Essex.
- 5. The following areas of the shores of Long Island Sound are restricted by statute from certain types of commercial fishing. Information on these areas can be obtained from the sources indicated in the introduction of this circular. Also, note Appendix I: Inshore Trawl Line (page 27) and Appendix II: Offshore Trawl Line (page 27).
 - Nets and seines in Darien, Stamford and Greenwich.
 - Use of seines in Norwalk Harbor.
 - Nets in the Pawcatuck River.
 - Long Beach and Penfield Reef.
 - Trawls or in the Thames River. See Appendix I: Inshore Trawl Line on page 27
 - Gill nets in the Thames River above the Amtrak bridge.
 - Trawls or gill nets in the Mystic River above a line extending from the southern extremity of Morgan Point in Noank to the southern extremity of Ram Point on Mason Island.
 - Trawls or gill nets in the Niantic River above the Amtrak bridge.
 - Seines in the Mystic River.
 - Purse nets in the Thames River.
 - Nets in Milford Harbor.
 - Nets in Chester Cove, Wright's Cove, and Keney Cove.
 - Use of nets in Long Island Sound adjacent to Stratford.
 - Use of trawls in the Poquonock River.
 - Selected parts of the Connecticut River.

Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing

The table below lists species-specific closed seasons for commercial fishing. Refer also to Species Restrictions beginning on page 22.

Table 4. Seasons Closed to Commercial Fishing

Species	Closed Season (all dates inclusive)
Alewives, and blueback herring ¹	Closed until March 31, 2009.
American shad ³	June 16 thru March 31
Blue crabs	December 1 thru April 30
Bluefish	January 1 thru April 14
Horseshoe crabs ³	July 8 thru May 21
Yellow perch, white perch, and catfish ² species	April 1 thru September 30
	May 1 thru June 14
Tautog (blackfish)	September 1 thru October 14
	December 7 thru December 31
Tomcod	April 16 thru November 30
Winter flounder	March 1 thru April 14

¹ See page 22 for details regarding the emergency prohibition of the taking of alewives and blueback herring.

² American shad fishermen may take catfish species during the shad season if the license holder also holds a Commercial Finfish License.

³ Closed on weekends within the open season. See Species Restrictions for details on times.

Species Restrictions

See previous sections for other applicable rules. See Appendix IV: Bait Species (page 29) for bait species and Appendix V: Species That May Be Taken Commercially in the Inland District (page 30) for restrictions on commercial fishing in the inland district. Federal permit holders must comply with federal rules, regardless of where the fish are taken.

Alewives and Blueback Herring (Alosa pseudoharengus, Alosa aestivalis)

- The Commissioner of the DEP has determined that migratory populations of alewives and blueback (river) herring in Connecticut's waters are threatened with undue depletion. Under authority of section 26-102 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner has prohibited the commercial or recreational taking of migratory alewives and blueback herring from all marine waters and most inland waters (see exceptions below) until March 31, 2009. This prohibition will likely be extended, pending analysis of 2008 data.
- 2. Land locked alewives from the following lakes are not considered to be threatened and may be taken recreationally by angling and scoop net as established below.

Amos Lake Crystal Lake Squantz Pond Ball Pond Highland Lake Uncas Pond Beach Pond Lake Quonnipaug Lake Waramaug

Candlewood Lake Rogers Lake

- 3. For the areas identified in 2 above, the recreational creel limit is 25 fish (alewives and river herring in the aggregate) for personal use purposes. Commercial fishing is not allowed in those bodies of water.
- 4. Scoop net dimensions a single hoop attached to a handle with the hoop not more than 36 inches in diameter and a mesh bag not more than 36 inches from the hoop to the end of the bag. The net must be constructed of flexible mesh and must be manually operated by a single individual. Metal mesh or stiff plastic mesh is prohibited.

American Eel (Anguilla rostrata)

The taking of glass eels, elvers and sliver eels is prohibited. Glass eels are transparent larval American eels less than 4 inches in length and elvers are post-larval eels 4-6 inches in length. Silver eels are sexually mature adults that take on a deep silvery and black coloration when they leave rivers and streams to return to the ocean to spawn. Most silver eels greater than 16 inches in length are female.

American Shad (Alosa sapidissima)

No American shad shall be taken for commercial purposes from Friday night at sundown to Sunday night at sundown. Closed season June 16 through March 31.

Atlantic Herring (Clupea harengus)

The taking of Atlantic herring is prohibited when federal waters outside of Long Island Sound are closed to the taking of herring. The landing of Atlantic herring in Connecticut is prohibited from any herring management area that is closed to the taking of Atlantic herring.

Black Sea Bass (Centropristis striata)

- 1. Commercial fishery moratorium -The landing or possession of black sea bass in Connecticut is prohibited unless the license holder has in his possession a Black Sea Bass Endorsement Letter issued under qualification criteria revised in December 2003. These letters were issued to qualifying fishermen in March 2004. Contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for information on qualification criteria.
- 2. Commercial fishery possession limits:
 - In the lobster pot fishery, 10 fish.
 - From January 1 May 31:
 - In the trawl net fishery, 1,000 pounds until 45% of the state quota is landed, then 0 pounds.
 - In the fish pot fishery, 200 pounds until 45% of the state quota is landed, then 0 pounds.
 - In the commercial hook, pound net, scallop dredge, and gill net fisheries, 50 pounds until 45% of the state quota is landed, then 0 pounds.
 - From June 1 October 31:
 - In the trawl net and fish pot fisheries, 200 pounds until 90% of the state quota is landed, then 0 pounds.
 - In the commercial hook, pound net, scallop dredge and gill net fisheries, 50 pounds until 90% of the state quota is landed, then 0 pounds.
 - From November 1 December 31:
 - In the trawl net and fish pot fisheries, 200 pounds until 100% of the state quota is landed,

then 0 pounds.

• In the commercial hook, pound net, scallop dredge and gill net fisheries, 50 pounds until 100% of the state quota is landed, then 0 pounds.

Exception:

If, after October 1, the Department projects that Connecticut's commercial black sea bass quota will not be landed, the trip limit for all gear types except lobster pots shall be adjusted to account for the number of weeks remaining in the year and quota remaining so that full use of the quota is assured. When 98% of the quota has been landed, the limit shall be 50 pounds for all gear types except lobster pots.

- Closure: If 100% of the quota is taken, the fishery is closed for all gear types.
- 3. When fishing multiple gears the most restrictive trip limit is applied.
- 4. See Trawl Nets on page 16 for information related to trawl mesh size-related possession limits.

Blue Crabs (Callinectes sapidus)

- 1. Size limit is 5 inches for hard shell crabs and 3-1/2 inches for soft-shell crabs.
- Closed season: December 1 through April 30.
- 3. Possession of uncooked blue crabs without the body shell (carapace) attached is prohibited. Only two claws per crab body may be possessed.

Bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix)

- 1. The sport fishery creel limit for bluefish is 10 fish per angler (including "snapper blues")
- 2. Use of pair trawls, purse seines, or roller rig gill nets to take bluefish is prohibited.
- 3. The bluefish commercial fishery is now managed by quota. The commercial fishing season opens on April 15 and closes December 31, or upon reaching 100% of the quota, whichever comes first. Commercial license holders may take an amount equal to the creel limit at any time but, if taken during a closed commercial period, bluefish may not be sold. There is a 500 lb/day or per trip possession limit until 95% of the Connecticut quota is taken, at which time the limit is reduced to 100 pounds. If 80% has not been taken by October 1st, the limit becomes 1,000 pounds until 95% is taken, after which the limit becomes 100 pounds. All possession limits apply to the trip or per day, whichever is the longer period of time and all such limits apply to the aggregate of all persons on board the fishing vessel.
- 4. **Quota Monitoring and Bluefish Catch Reporting:** DEP has suspended the weekly reporting requirement for commercial fishermen landing bluefish. Weekly monitoring may be reinstated in the future, if required, to meet the quota-monitoring obligations of the bluefish fishery management plan. License holders will be notified of any changes in this requirement. All license holders authorized to take bluefish are still required to submit monthly logbooks that include a daily record of catch.

Catfish Species

American Shad fishermen may take catfish during the American shad season if the license holder also possesses the Commercial Finfish License.

Horseshoe Crabs (Limulus polyphemus)

- 1. The landing or possession of Horseshoe Crabs in Connecticut is prohibited unless the license holder has in his possession a Horseshoe Crab Endorsement Letter. These letters are required in addition to a Commercial Finfish License or a Commercial Horseshoe Crab License and have been mailed to qualifying fishermen. Contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for information on qualification criteria.
- 2. Closed Areas No person shall engage in the hand-harvest of horseshoe crabs from the following areas:
 - Menunketesuck Island in Westbrook.
 - Sandy Point in West Haven from the West Haven boat ramp on Beach Street south to, and clockwise around said point, including the breakwater, tidal flats and embayment and southeastern facing barrier beach to the groin adjacent to the intersection of Beach Street and Morse Avenue.
 - Milford Point in Milford, including all beaches and adjacent sand bars and tidal flats to the west of, and including, the spit that lies south-southeast of the southern terminus of Francis Street.
- 3. Commercial fishery possession limits:
 - In the trawl fishery, 25 crabs.
 - In the hand-harvest fishery, 500 crabs, per twenty-four hour period that begins at 12:00 noon.

- 4. It is prohibited to use any tools, including, but not limited to, nets, rakes, tongs, hooks, poles, gaffs, or spears to take horseshoe crabs, except that gloves may be worn by the license holder.
- 5. Any person that does not qualify to hand-harvest horseshoe crabs is prohibited from entering the water to assist. Such unqualified persons are not prohibited from carrying crabs that have been placed on the beach by the license holder to a storage container or vehicle or taking crabs from a license holder for storage while remaining in a boat.
- 6. The taking of horseshoe crabs is restricted to holders of the Connecticut Commercial Finfish License (by hand) and the Connecticut Commercial Fishing License (by trawl). Certain holders of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture Conch License may qualify for a special Commercial Horseshoe Crab License. See Commercial Horseshoe Crab License on page 8 for details.
- 7. The open season for the taking of horseshoe crabs is May 22 through July 7. During the open season, no horseshoe crab shall be taken from Friday at 6:00 PM through Sunday at 6:00 PM.

Summer Flounder (fluke) (Paralichthys dentatus)

- Commercial fishery moratorium –The landing or possession of summer flounder in Connecticut is prohibited unless the license holder has in his possession a Summer Flounder Endorsement Letter issued under qualification criteria revised in December 2003. These letters were issued to qualifying fishermen in March 2004. Contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for information on qualification criteria.
- 2. See Trawl Nets on page 16 for information related to trawl mesh size-related possession limits.
- 3. Commercial fishery trip (possession) limits:
 - January 1 January 21 150 pounds.
 - January 22 April 30 1,500 pounds, until 45% of Connecticut's quota has been taken, at which time the limit is reduced to 50 pounds, until 50% of Connecticut's has been taken at which time the limit is reduced to zero. After January 21 and until the 45% criterion is reached, each vessel may only possess or land summer flounder during only two trips per week (Sunday 0000 through Saturday 2400). Prior to any trip that will depart or land while this two trip per week limitation is in effect, every summer flounder fishermen must notify the DEP dispatch office and provide the: vessel name, captain's name, departure date and time, estimated return date and time, and Connecticut port of landing. DEP dispatch can be contacted by voice or fax at 860.424.4069.
 - May 1 October 31 75 pounds until 97% of the Connecticut quota is landed, then the limit is reduced to zero pounds.
 - November 1 December 31 900 pounds, until 98% of the quota is landed, then 100 pounds.
 - Exception:

If after October 1, the Department projects that Connecticut's commercial summer flounder quota will not be landed the trip limit shall be adjusted to account for the number of weeks remaining in the year and the quota remaining so that full use of the quota is assured.

- Closure: If 100% of the quota is taken, the fishery is closed.
- 4. When fishing multiple gears the **least** restrictive trip limit is applied.
- 5. Fish taken in access of the possession limit, out of season or below the minimum length must be returned to the waters from which taken.
- 6. Special restriction on filleting While engaged in sport fishing activities, possession of summer flounder fillets less than 18 inches in length is prohibited unless the "rack" (carcass) of the fish from which the fillet was removed has been retained and is at least 18 inches in length. This regulation does not prohibit filleting summer flounder on shore or at the dockside.
- 7. Special restriction on filleting While engaged in commercial fishing sport activities, possession of summer flounder fillets less than 14 inches in length is prohibited unless the "rack" (carcass) of the fish from which the fillet was removed has been retained and is at least 14 inches in length. This regulation does not prohibit filleting summer flounder on shore or at the dockside.

Winter Flounder (Pseudopleuronectes americanus)

- 1. Commercial fishery season closure March 1 through April 14, inclusive.
- 2. See Trawl Nets on page 16 for information related to trawl mesh size-related possession limits.

Monkfish (Lophius americanus)

The possession limit for monkfish livers is 10% of the weight of whole fish on board or 25% of the weight of tails on board (see Page 16, minimum fish length section for minimum length of whole fish and tail length). Federal permit holders must comply with federal rules on fishing for monkfish, regardless of where the fish are taken.

Scup (porgy) (Stenotomus chrysops)

- Commercial fishery moratorium –The landing or possession of scup in Connecticut is prohibited from May 1 through October 31 unless the license holder has in his possession a Scup Endorsement Letter issued under qualification criteria revised in December 2003. These letters were issued to qualifying fishermen in March 2004. Contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division for information on qualification criteria.
- 2. See Trawl Nets on page 16 for information related to trawl mesh size-related possession limits.
- 3. Commercial fishery trip (possession) limits are in effect as follows:
 - In the lobster pot fishery, 10 fish.
 - From January 1 April 30 30,000 pounds per two week period until 80% then 1,000 pounds per trip until 100% of the coastwide quota is taken.
 - From May 1 May 31:
 - In the commercial hook, pound net and gillnet fisheries 25 pounds.
 - In the bottom trawl and fish pot fisheries 50 pounds.
 - From June 1 August 31:
 - In the commercial hook, pound net and gillnet fisheries, 100 pounds until 40% of the state quota is landed, then 25 pounds until 70% of the state quota is landed, at which time the limit shall be zero pounds.
 - In the bottom trawl and fish pot fisheries, 200 pounds until 40% of the state quota has been landed, then 50 pounds until 70% of the state quota is landed, at which time the limit shall be zero pounds.
 - From September 1 October 31:
 - In the commercial hook, pound net and gillnet fisheries, 100 pounds until 90% of the state quota is landed, then 25 pounds until 100% of the state quota is landed.
 - In the bottom trawl and fish pot fisheries, 200 pounds until 90% of the state quota has been landed, then 50 pounds until 100% of the state quota is landed.
 - From November 1 December 31:
 - 3,500 pounds until 100% of the coastwide quota is landed.

• Exception:

If, after October 1, the Department projects that Connecticut's commercial scup quota will not be landed, the trip limit for all gear types except lobster pots shall be adjusted to account for the number of weeks remaining in the year and quota remaining so that full use of the quota is assured. When 98% of the quota has been landed, the limit shall be 100 pounds for all gear types except lobster pots.

- **Closure**: If 100% of the quota is taken, the fishery is closed.
- 4. When fishing multiple gears the **least** restrictive trip limit is applied.
- 5. Possession limits apply to the aggregate of all persons aboard the vessel per trip or per day whichever is the longer period of time.

Spiny Dogfish (Squalus acanthius)

- 1. The possession of dogfish fins without the rest of the fish is prohibited.
- 2. Commercial fishery trip (possession) limits are in effect as follows:
 - From May 1 October 31, 600 pounds
 - From November 1 April 30, 600 pounds
- 3. **Closure**: If 100% of the quota is taken, the fishery is closed.

Striped Bass (Morone saxatilis)

- 1. Permitted Gear Angling only. Spear fishing or the use of a gaff is prohibited.
- 2. Release of Striped Bass Any striped bass taken contrary to these provisions must immediately, and without avoidable injury, be returned to the waters from which taken.
- 3. Sale of striped bass taken from Connecticut waters is prohibited. If taken from the waters of a state in which commercial fishing is allowed, they may be sold in Connecticut, but only if they meet the Connecticut minimum length (28 inches). Moreover, they must be tagged with a tag from the state of origin. Fishermen wishing to know the status of the fishery in New York or Rhode Island must contact the marine fishery agency in those states.
- 4. Landing of Striped Bass Striped bass may not be landed with the head or tail removed.

- 5. Hybrid "Striped Bass" Artificially reared hybrid striped bass (one parent Morone saxatilis) less than the minimum length may be possessed and sold if the retailer maintains documentation attesting to the point of origin (the hatchery or fish farm).
- 6. Tagging of striped bass is prohibited unless the person applying the tag is participating in a program approved by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the striped bass is greater than 16 inches total length.

Atlantic Sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus)

May not be taken or possessed in Connecticut.

Shortnose Sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum)

May not be taken or possessed in Connecticut.

Tautog (blackfish) (Tautoga onitis)

- 1. Commercial fishery trip (possession) limits are in effect, as follows:
 - Bottom Trawl 50 fish per day, applied to the aggregate of all persons on board the vessel.
 - Hook, Fish Pot 25 fish per day, applied to the aggregate of all persons on board the vessel.
 - Fyke, Gill Net 25 fish per day, applied to the aggregate of all persons on board the vessel.
 - Pound Net 12 fish per day, applied to the aggregate of all persons on board the vessel.
 - Lobster Pot 10 fish/day, applied to the aggregate of all persons on board the vessel.
- 2. Commercial Fishery Season Closure May 1 through June 14, September 1 through October 14 and December 7 through December 31, all dates inclusive. Season closures apply to all gear types, including pound nets.

Rainbow smelt (Osmerus mordax)

- No person shall take from or possess any rainbow smelt taken from the marine district rivers and streams in the inland district and those areas of the inland district open to commercial fishing.
- 2. Any rainbow smelt caught shall be immediately returned, without avoidable injury, to the waters from which it was taken.

Appendices

Appendix I: Inshore Trawl Line

By Act of the General Assembly:

No person may use any otter trawl in any waters shoreward of the following described line: From the southern extremity of Stonington Point, Stonington; to the east end of the Stonington inner breakwater; follow the breakwater; from the west end of the breakwater to Wamphassuc Point. From the southern extremity of Dodge's Island, Stonington to the southern extremity of Ender's Island, Stonington; straight line to the southern extremity of Mason Point, Stonington; from the southerly extremity of Ram Point, Stonington straight line to the southern extremity of Morgan Point, Groton; from the entrance to Venetian Harbor, Groton to the southern extremity of Mumford Point, Groton; from the western extremity of Bushy Point Beach, Groton to the southern extremity of Avery Point, Groton; from the western extremity of Eastern Point, Groton, to the old New London Harbor lighthouse, New London; from the southern extremity of Magonk Point, Waterford; to the southern extremity of Millstone Point, Waterford; to the one fathom contour of Niantic Bay, thence to the southwest extremity of Black Point, East Lyme straight line to Buoy C5 at Seal Rock, East Lyme; thence to the southern extremity of Lands End, East Lyme; thence to the mouth of the Three Mile River, Old Lyme; straight line to Hatchett Point, Old Lyme; straight line from Hatchett Point, Old Lyme to Hawk's Nest Beach Point, Old Lyme. From the eastern extremity of Griswold Point, Old Lyme to Buoy 2 Old Saybrook Channel Entrance; thence to the southern extremity of Old Saybrook Point. From Cornfield Point, Old Saybrook to the mouth of the Oyster River, Old Saybrook; straight line to Chapman Point, Old Saybrook; straight line to Old Kelsey Point, Westbrook, from Money Point, Westbrook to Lobster Rock, Westbrook; from Lobster Rock, Westbrook to Buoy 3A Westbrook mouth of the Menunketesuck River; from Buoy 3A Westbrook to Kelsey Point, Clinton; to Hammonasset Point, Madison. From Hogshead Point, Madison to the southern extremity of Grass Island, Guilford; to the southern extremity of Mulberry Point, Guilford; to the southern extremity of Vineyard Point, Guilford; to the southern extremity of Outer Island, Branford; to the southern extremity of Haycock Point, Branford; from Haycock Point, Branford to the northeast extremity of Spectacle Island, Branford; from the southwest extremity of Spectacle Island, Branford to the flag pole at Mansfield Point, Branford; from the flag pole at Mansfield Point, Branford to the southern extremity of South End, East Haven; to the southern extremity of Morgan Point, East Haven to the southwest ledge on the east breakwater, New Haven; to the Luddington Rock breakwater to the west breakwater light in West Haven; to Oyster River Point, West Haven, to the southern extremity of Merwin Point, Milford to the southern extremity of Pond Point, Milford; to Welch's Point, Milford; to Buoy 7 Milford Outer Harbor; from Buoy 7 Milford Outer Harbor to Buoy 5 to the northwest corner of Charles Island, Milford; from the northwest corner of Charles Island, Milford to the southwest corner of Charles Island, Milford; to the south end of the outer breakwater at the Housatonic River to the southern extremity of Stratford Point, Stratford and Point No Point, Stratford. From Point No Point, Stratford to the southerly end of the east breakwater at Pleasure Beach, Bridgeport; to the south end of the west breakwater at Seaside Park, Bridgeport; to Buoy 4 Black Rock Harbor, Bridgeport. From Buoy 4 Black Rock Harbor, Bridgeport to Pine Creek Point, Fairfield; from Pine Creek Point, Fairfield to Buoy 4 Southport Harbor, Fairfield; from Buoy 4 to the southern extremity of Frost Point, Westport; to the southern extremity of Sherwood Point, Westport; to the southern point of Cedar Point, Westport; to Buoy 1 Georges Rock, Westport; to Buoy 2 Cockenoe Shoal; to Buoy 24 Westport to Buoy N28 Norwalk; to Buoy 3 Darien Five Mile River Entrance; to the Fish Island Buoy, Darien; to Long Neck Point, Darien. From Long Neck Point, Darien to Buoy 2 Cove Rocks, Stamford; to the southeast extremity of Shippan Point, Stamford; from the southwest extremity of Shippan Point, Stamford to the east end of the breakwater, Stamford Harbor; from the west end of the breakwater, Stamford Harbor to Gong 1 Greenwich South Reef; to Buoy 3 Greenwich Harbor Entrance; to the northeast extremity of Great Captain's Island, Greenwich; from the southwest extremity of Great Captain's Island, Greenwich to Byram Point.

Appendix II: Offshore Trawl Line

The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies provide that no person shall use a vessel greater than 26 feet in length to trawl in any waters north of a line beginning at the southerly tip of the Byram River breakwater to buoy N2 which is two-tenths of a nautical mile southwest of Great Captain Island to buoy N34, which is one-half nautical mile south of Greenwich Point in Greenwich to buoy R32, which is eightenths of a nautical mile south of Shippan Point in Stamford to buoy R24A, which is nine-tenths of a nautical mile south of Pecks Ledge in Norwalk to buoy R24, which is nine-tenths of a nautical mile southeast of the southern tip of Cockenoe Reef in Norwalk to buoy BH, which is one and four-tenths nautical miles southeast of Penfield Reef Light in Bridgeport to a point midway between buoy R18 and buoy R20, which point is one and six-tenths nautical miles south of Point No Point in Stratford and thence

towards the west end of the west breakwater at New Haven Harbor and west of a line drawn from the Stratford Shoal light to the easterly breakwater of the Housatonic River in Milford.

Appendix III: Demarcations Between the Marine and Inland Districts

The following table describes the demarcations between the Marine and Inland Districts for the rivers, coves, and embayments along the Connecticut shoreline

Table 5. Demarcations Between the Marine and Inland Districts

Water Body	Town(s)	Demarcation Line
Alewife Cove	New London-Waterford	Entirely in marine district
Back River	Old Saybrook	Entirely in marine district
Baker's Cove	Groton	Entirely in marine district
Beebe Cove	Groton	Entirely in marine district
Blackhall River	Old Lyme	Route 156
Branford River	Branford	Montowese Street
Bride Brook	East Lyme	First railroad crossing
Bruces Brook	Bridgeport-Stratford	Stratford Avenue
Byram River	Greenwich	First railroad crossing
Clinton River	Clinton (Indian River)	Route 1
Connecticut River	Old Lyme-Old Saybrook	First highway bridge (I-95)
Cove River	West Haven	Shore Road Route 122
Duck River	Old Lyme	Entirely in marine district
East Creek	Guilford	Tide gates at Guilford dock
East River	Guilford-Madison	Route 1
Farm River	East Haven	Route 142
Five Mile River	Darien-Norwalk	Route 136
Four Mile River	East Lyme-Old Lyme	First railroad crossing
Goodwives River	Darien	Entirely in marine district
Graniteville (Millstone) Brook	Waterford	First railroad crossing
Hammonasset River	Clinton-Madison	Route 1
Hammonds Cove	Waterford	Entirely in marine district
Horse Neck Brook	Greenwich	Junction with mouth of harbor
Housatonic River	Milford-Stratford	Merritt Parkway
Indian Harbor	Greenwich	First railroad crossing
Indian River	Milford	Route 122
Jordan Cove	Waterford	First railroad crossing
Lieutenant River	Old Lyme	Route 156
Menunketesuck River	Westbrook	Route 1
Mianus River	Greenwich	Dam north of Boston Post Road
Mile Creek	Old Lyme	Entirely in marine district
Mill River	Fairfield	Dam at Harbor Road
Mill River	New Haven	Tide gates at State Street
Muddy Brook	Westport	Route 136
Mumford Cove	Groton	Entirely in marine district
Mystic River	Stonington-Groton	500 feet north of U.S. Route 1
Neck River	Madison	Route 1
Negro Brook	Stratford	Route 110
Niantic River	East Lyme-Waterford	Golden Spur Bridge on Route 1-A
Noroton River	Darien-Stamford	Boston Post Road
Norwalk River	Norwalk	Wall Street
Oyster River	Milford	Route 122

Water Body	Town(s)	Demarcation Line
Oyster River	Old Saybrook	Route 1
Palmer's Cove	Groton	Entirely in marine district
Pataganset Cove	East Lyme	First railroad crossing
Patchogue River	Westport	Route 1
Pawcatuck River	Stonington	500 feet north of Route 1
Pequonnock River	Bridgeport	North Avenue
Pequot-Sepos Cove	Stonington	500 feet north of Route 1
Poquonnock River	Groton	500 feet north of Route 1
Pumpkin Ground Brook	Stratford	Route 110
Quiambaug Cove	Stonington	500 feet north of Route 1
Quinnipiac River	New Haven	Route 17
Rippowam River	Stamford	First railroad crossing
Rooster River	Bridgeport	North Avenue
Sasco Brook	Westport	Buckley's Mill Dam above Route 1
Saugatuck River	Westport	Kings Highway
Shaws Cove	New London	Entirely in marine district
Stonington Harbor	Stonington	Lambert Cove and Quanaduck Cove (500 ft north of Rt 1)
Stony Brook	Westport	Riverside Avenue
Thames River	Groton-New London	500 feet north of Route 1
Three Mile River	Old Lyme	First railroad crossing
Tokeneke Brook	Darien	Old Farm Road
Wepawaug River	Milford	Route 122
Wequetequock River	Stonington	500 feet north of Route 1
West River	Guilford	Route 146
West River	West Haven	Tide gates at Orange Avenue
Winthrop Cove	New London	Entirely in marine district

Appendix IV: Bait Species

The following species listed here, to the exclusion of all other species, may be taken commercially in the inland district under an inland commercial bait license, or in the marine district under a marine commercial bait license. These species may also be offered for sale as bait species under a bait dealers license.

(1) Golden shiner or "pond shiner" (Notemigonus crysoleucas); (2) common shiner (Luxilus cornutus); (3) fallfish (Semotilus corporalis); (4) creek chub (Semotilus atromaculatus); (5) spottail shiner or "river bait" (Notropis hudsonius); (6) bridle shiner (Notropis bifrenatus); (7) blacknose dace (Rhinichthys atratulus); (8) longnose dace (Rhinichthys cataractae); (9) pearl dace (Margariscus margarita); (10) bluntnose minnow (Pimephales notatus); (11) fathead minnow (Pimephales promelas); (12) cutlips minnow (Exoglossum maxillingua); (13) chub sucker (Erimyzon oblongus); (14) banded killifish (Fundulus diaphanus); (15) mummichug (Fundulus heteroclitus); (16) striped killifish (Fundulus majalis); (17) tidewater silverside (Menidia beryllina); (18) Atlantic silverside (Menidia menidia); (19) sand lance or "sand eels" (Ammodytes spp); (20) bay anchovy (Anchoa mitchilli); (21) sheepshead minnow (Cyprinodon variegatus); (22) mullet species (mugil spp.); (23) frogs (except northern leopard frogs); (24) perch bugs; (25) helgramites; (26) mayfly nymphs; (27) other aquatic insects; (28) crayfish; (29) green crabs (Carcinus maenas); (30) fiddler crabs (Uca spp.); (31) hermit crabs (Pagurus spp.); (32) Asian (Japanese) shore crab (Hemigrapsus sanguineus); and (33) shrimp (families Crangonidae, Palaemonidae and Penaeidae).

In addition to the bait species listed above, the following species, if legally taken under the appropriate commercial license and meeting the minimum legal length requirements specified in this information circular, may be offered for sale as bait under a bait dealer's license: (1) menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*); (2) alewives¹ (*Alosa pseudoharengus*); (3) blueback or "glut" herring¹ (*Alosa aestivalis*); (4) American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*); (5) butterfish (*Peprilus triacanthus*); (6) Atlantic mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*); (7) whiting (*Merluccius bilinearis*); (8) squid (*Loligo sp.*); (9) Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*); (10) hickory shad (*Alosa mediocris*); and (11) horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*).

Marine Fisheries Division April 2008

_

See page 22 for details regarding the emergency prohibition of the taking of alewives and blueback herring.

Appendix V: Species That May Be Taken Commercially in the Inland District

- a. Carp (Cyprinus carpio)
- b. Common sucker (Catostomus commersonii)
- c. American eel (Anguilla rostrata)
- d. Sea lamprey (Petromyzon marinus)
- e. Atlantic tomcod or "frostfish" (Microgadus tomcod)
- f. Hickory shad (Alosa mediocris)
- g. American shad (Alosa sapidissima) in the main stem Connecticut River only, south of the Putnam Bridge in Glastonbury.
- h. Alewife (Alosa pseudoharengus) Fishery Closed -- see page 22
- i. Blueback (glut or river) herring (Alosa aestivalis) Fishery Closed -- see page 22
- j. White perch (Morone americana)
- k. Yellow perch (Perca flavescens)
- I. Catfish species (Ictalurus spp.)
- m. Bait species: (1) golden shiner or "pond shiner" (Notemigonus crysoleucas); (2) common shiner (Luxilus cornutus); (3) fallfish (Semotilus corporalis); (4) creek chub (Semotilus atromaculatus); (5) spottail shiner or "river bait" (Notropis hudsonius); (6) bridle shiner (Notropis bifrenatus); (7) blacknose dace (Rhinichthys atratulus); (8) longnose dace (Rhinichthys cataractae); (9) pearl dace (Margariscus margarita); (10) bluntnose minnow (Pimephales notatus); (11) fathead minnow (Pimephales promelas); (12) cutlips minnow (Exoglossum maxillingua); (13) chub sucker (Erimyzon oblongus); (14) banded killifish (Fundulus diaphanus); (15) mummichug (Fundulus heteroclitus); (16) striped killifish (Fundulus majalis); (17) tidewater silverside (Menidia beryllina); (18) Atlantic silverside (Menidia menidia); (19) bay anchovy (Anchoa mitchilli); (20) sheepshead minnow (Cyprinodon variegatus); (21) mullet species (Mugil spp.); (22) frogs (except northern leopard frogs); (23) perch bugs; (24) helgramites; (25) mayfly nymphs; (26) other aquatic insects; (27) crayfish; (28) shrimp (families Crangonidae, Palaemonidae and Penaeidae).
- n. Any species of crustaceans, provided lobsters and blue crabs meet minimum legal size requirements and are taken by legal methods.

Appendix VI: Escape Vents and Escape Panels in Lobster Pots

- a. All lobster pots used in Connecticut waters must have an escape vent in the catch compartment (parlor) of the pot. The vent must be in an unobstructed location and must measure either 1-15/16 inches by 5-3/4 inches rectangular, or must consist of two 2-7/16 inch circular openings.
 - Minimum escape vent sizes for pots used outside of Lobster Management Area (LMA) 6 (Long Island Sound) vary according to the minimum legal size of lobsters. Any fisherman authorized to fish in more than one LMA must adhere to the most restrictive measures, regardless of where fishing is taking place.
- b. All lobster pots made of material other than wood and used for the taking of lobsters in Connecticut waters shall be constructed so as to contain, on any side of the catch compartment (parlor), an escapement panel which, when open, will provide an unobstructed opening not less than 3-3/4 inches by 3-3/4 inches.
 - If constructed of wood, the escapement panel must include a rectangular escape vent not less than 1-15/16 inches by 5-3/4 inches and, on the long axis, be composed of lath not thicker than 3/8 of an inch
 - If constructed of material other than wood, the escapement panel may be hinged and must be held in the closed position with either a) non-stainless uncoated, ferrous wire, the stock of which is not more than 3/32 of an inch in diameter or b) untreated natural fiber such as cotton, sisal, hemp, or manila.
 - All such pots and traps found in use that do not contain such escapement panels may be seized by any authorized representative of the Department of Environmental Protection and disposed of as determined by the Commissioner.
- c. Holders of a federal permit to take lobsters from the EEZ may, for complying with the escapement panel provision in the EEZ, use a "bungee cord" to hold the trap door shut, as long as the cord is attached with untreated non-stainless/uncoated ferrous metal not greater than 3/32 inch (0.24 cm) in diameter and in such a way that when the untreated material degrades, the door of the trap will pivot open freely.

Appendix VII: Areas in Which Trawling is Prohibited

- a. The use of otter trawls, beam trawls, or similar devices west of the LORAN C 14935 line at Kimberly Reef near Madison is prohibited from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.
- b. The use of otter trawls, beam trawls, or similar devices is prohibited north of the line described in Appendix I: Inshore Trawl Line (page 27). Furthermore the use of otter trawls, beam trawls, or similar devices from any vessel greater than 26 feet in length is prohibited north and west of the lines described in Appendix II: Offshore Trawl Line (page 27).
 - In addition, from Friday one hour after sunset to Sunday one hour before sunset, trawling is prohibited inside a line from the southern tip of the Old Saybrook west breakwater to Buoy R8 to the shoreline at 72 degrees 18 minutes west longitude in Old Lyme.
 - In addition, the use of otter trawls, beam trawls, or similar devices from any vessel greater than 44 feet in length is prohibited in Connecticut waters north of a line running from shore to shore through Buoy C5 at Three Foot Rock in East Lyme and Buoy N6 at Black Rock in Waterford.
- c. The use of otter trawls, beam trawls, or similar devices from any vessel greater than 44 feet in length is prohibited in Connecticut waters west of 73 degrees longitude unless the vessel operator has been authorized to operate a vessel of this size in this area.
- d. The use of otter trawls on designated oyster beds, without the permission of the bed leaseholder is prohibited. For copies of oyster bed boundaries, contact the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Aquaculture at 203-874-0696.

Appendix VIII: Connecticut State Waters Boundary Line

The points described in the following table define the Connecticut State waters boundary line from Greenwich, CT to Stonington, CT.

Table 6. Points Defining the Connecticut State Waters Boundary Line

Chart	Laste La	La contra de	Magnetic		Loran TDs				
Number	Latitude	Longitude	Course	W	X	Υ			
	40° 59.32' N	73º 39.62' W	166º / 194º		No reliable TDs	3			
	40° 59.02' N	73° 39.41' W	149º / 211º	15360.2	26915.0	43987.0			
	40° 57.05' N	73° 36.78' W	88º / 272º	15346.8	26887.5	43964.5			
12363	40° 57.87' N	73° 32.85′ W	88º / 272º	15320.3	26856.5	43966.5			
	40 59.78' N	73 23.70' W	89º / 271º	15259.7	26784.9	43969.9			
	41° 01.57' N	73° 15.00' W	89º / 271º	15203.5	26712.0	43959.5			
	41° 03.40′ N	73° 06.10' W	89º / 271º	15141.0	26645.0	43973.0			
	41° 04.65′ N	73° 00.00' W	89º / 271º	15098.9	26594.5	43973.3			
	41° 06.67' N	72° 50.00' W	89º / 271º	15030.4	26513.0	43974.0			
	41° 08.69′ N	72° 40.00' W	90° / 270°	14961.0	26430.9	43974.1			
12354	41° 10.79′ N	72º 29.45' W	90° / 270°	14888.0	26343.0	43974.1			
12354	41º 12.22' N	72º 22.25' W	90° / 270°	14838.0	26282.5	43972.5			
	41º 13.57' N	72º 15.38' W	90° / 270°	14790.0	26225.0	43972.5			
	41° 14.94' N	72º 08.35' W	90° / 270°	14741.5	26166.0	43971.9			
	41° 15.52' N	72º 05.41' W	74º / 286º	14720.5	26140.5	43971.4			
	41º 17.43' N	72º 01.18' W	89º / 271º						
	41º 18.62' N	71° 55.80' W	125º / 235º						
	41º 18.26' N	71º 54.48' W	35º / 325º	Daliable	e TDs are not a	v cilabla			
13214	41º 19.85' N	71° 53.70′ W	134º / 226º	Reliable	for	ivaliable			
13214	41º 19.14' N	71° 52.00' W	91º / 269º	Fie		und			
	41º 19.22' N	71º 51.57' W	69º / 291º	Fishers Island Sound					
	41° 19.45' N	71° 51.15' W	44º / 316º						
	41° 19.76' N	71° 50.92' W							